DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 138 388 RC 009 841

TITLE Louisiana Annual Rural Manpower Report, MA 5-79, 1976.

INSTITUTION Louisiana State Dept. of Employment Security, Baton Rouge

REPORT NO MA-5-79

PUB DATE 76

NOTE 103p.; For related document, see ED 127 104 ; Parts of Part II may be marginally legible due to small print of original document

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$6.01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Agribusiness; *Agricultural Laborers; Agricultural Trends; Annual Reports; Community Development; *Economic Development; Employment Statistics; *Employment Trends; Farm Labor; Field Crops; Fisheries; Industrialization; Manpower Utilization; *Migrant Workers; *Outreach Programs; Public Relations; *Rural Economics; Rural Population; Seasonal Laborers; Unemployment

IDENTIFIERS *Louisiana

ABSTRACT

Stressing the provision of services to migrants and seasonal farmworkers in keeping with the U.S. District Court Order requiring and quantitatively proportionate service to this labor segment, the Rural Manpower Service provided a comprehensive program of service to all rural elements in Louisiana. Working in close conjunction with the Service was the Monitor Advocate whose duties included: insuring compliance with the court order; participating in on-site reviews, evaluations, and validations; and offering suggestions that would insure equity of service to all users of the Employment Service facilities. In 1976, a considerable number of rural residents commuted to adjacent urban and rural areas seeking and maintaining employment. The rural economy stopped its downward spiral as overall employment increased and unemployment decreased. There were no important changes in agricultural mechanization or production techniques that had an appreciable effect on employment. Area offices operated 55 out-reach operations in areas removed from the effective range of offices. Summarizing the 1976 accomplishments, this report presents data on: economic developments, employment and unemployment trends, family and regular hired workers, seasonal agricultural employment, community development, public relations, day-haul activities, composition of interstate farm migrants, commercial fisheries, and the production from the cotton, sugar cane, strawberry, tung nut, and rice agricultural areas. (NQ)

Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original.

F O R W A R D

1976

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY BUREAU

RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

One of the objectives of the Louisiana Department of Employment Security is to provide equality of services in all programs administered by the department to rural area residents throughout Louisiana. This includes services to agriculture, business, government and workers in meeting their employment and manpower needs.

This report is compiled to provide a summary of Rural Manpower Services accomplished during Calendar Year 1976, and to relate some of the plans for rural services in 1977.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

MA 5-79

1976

Prepared by

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

JOSEPH R. GERACE, ADMINISTRATOR

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

MA 5-79
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I ANNUAL SUMMARY..... iii

Planning..... 1
Administration..... 2
Meetings and Conferences..... 2
Staff Training..... 3
Organization Chart..... 4
Impact of Rural Industrialization and Related Developments..... 5
Impact of Agricultural Mechanization, changing Production Techniques and Other Shifting Agricultural Trends..... 11
Impact of Agriculture on the State's Economy..... 11
Louisiana Vegetables..... 13
Louisiana Acreage, Yield, Production and Value (Tables)..... 15
Louisiana Vegetable Summary, 1976, with Comparisons (Tables)..... 16
Rural Nonagricultural Employment Trends..... 17
Rural Unemployment Trends..... 18
Farm Employment Trends..... 18
Family Workers..... 19
Regular Hired Workers..... 19
Seasonal Agricultural Employment Trends..... 20
Rural Manpower Programs and Activities for Farm Workers..... 21
Services to Rural People..... 23
Rural Manpower Service Participation in Community Development Activities..... 24
Public Relations..... 25
State of Louisiana Annual Averages Employment and Unemployment (Table)..... 27
Employment and Unemployment Trends in Rural Areas..... 28
Evaluation, Problems, Plans and Recommendations..... 29
Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations..... 31
Day-Haul Activities at Points Operated by Louisiana Department of Employment Security..... 32
Composition of Interstate Farm Migrant Groups..... 33

PART II ATTACHMENTS..... 35

State of Louisiana Agricultural Reporting Areas..... 37
The Upper Red River Cotton Area..... 38
Delta Cotton Area..... 41
The Lower Red River Cotton Area..... 52
West Sugar Cane Area..... 61
East Sugar Cane Area..... 69
The Strawberry Area..... 73
The Tung Nut Area..... 77
Rice Area..... 80
Commercial Fisheries of Louisiana, 1975..... 83

PART I

ANNUAL SUMMARY

YEAR 1976

STATE Louisiana

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

PART I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING, MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

PLANNING

During calander year 1976 the Louisiana Department of Employment Securtiy administered, through its Rural Manpower Section, a comprehensive program of service to all rural elements in Louisiana. This program also provided a full range of services to agricultural workers and employers in both the rural and urban areas.

In addition to the above, the agency's Rural Manpower Service also stressed the provision of services to migrants and seasonal farm workers in keeping with the provisions of the U. S. District Court Order requiring qualitatively and quantitatively proportionate service to this specific labor segment.

Also working in close conjunction with the Rural Manpower section is the Monitor Advocate whose duties include insuring compliance with the court order. The Monitor Advocate also participates in on-site reviews, evaluations and validations and offers suggestions that would insure equity of service to all users of the Employment Service Facilities.

In implementing the above program of service, the Administrative Office, through the Employment Service Division, encouraged Area Office Managers to implement part-time out-reach offices in areas removed from the effective range of the local office. The purpose of these out-reach offices is to provide essential manpower services to rural residents who otherwise would not be able to avail

themeselves to the same services offered in the local office.

Administration

The administration and functional direction of the Rural Manpower Service and its Farm Labor Program is based in the Administrative Office and controlled by the Employment Service Division through the Rural Manpower Service Section. Line operational authority runs upward from the Local Office Employment Service Section through the Local Office Manager, District Supervisor, Director of Field Services and the Administrator. An organizational chart outlining the above is found in Part III page 4 of this report.

Meetings and Conferences

During 1976 the Rural Manpower Staff attended many meetings and conferences. A summary of these meetings and conferences follows:

1. Mr. W. Burt Snee attended the Multi-regional Farm Labor Conference on January 19th through 23rd, 1976 in Atlanta, Georgia. The subject of the conference was Interstate Clearance Procedures and Agricultural Labor.

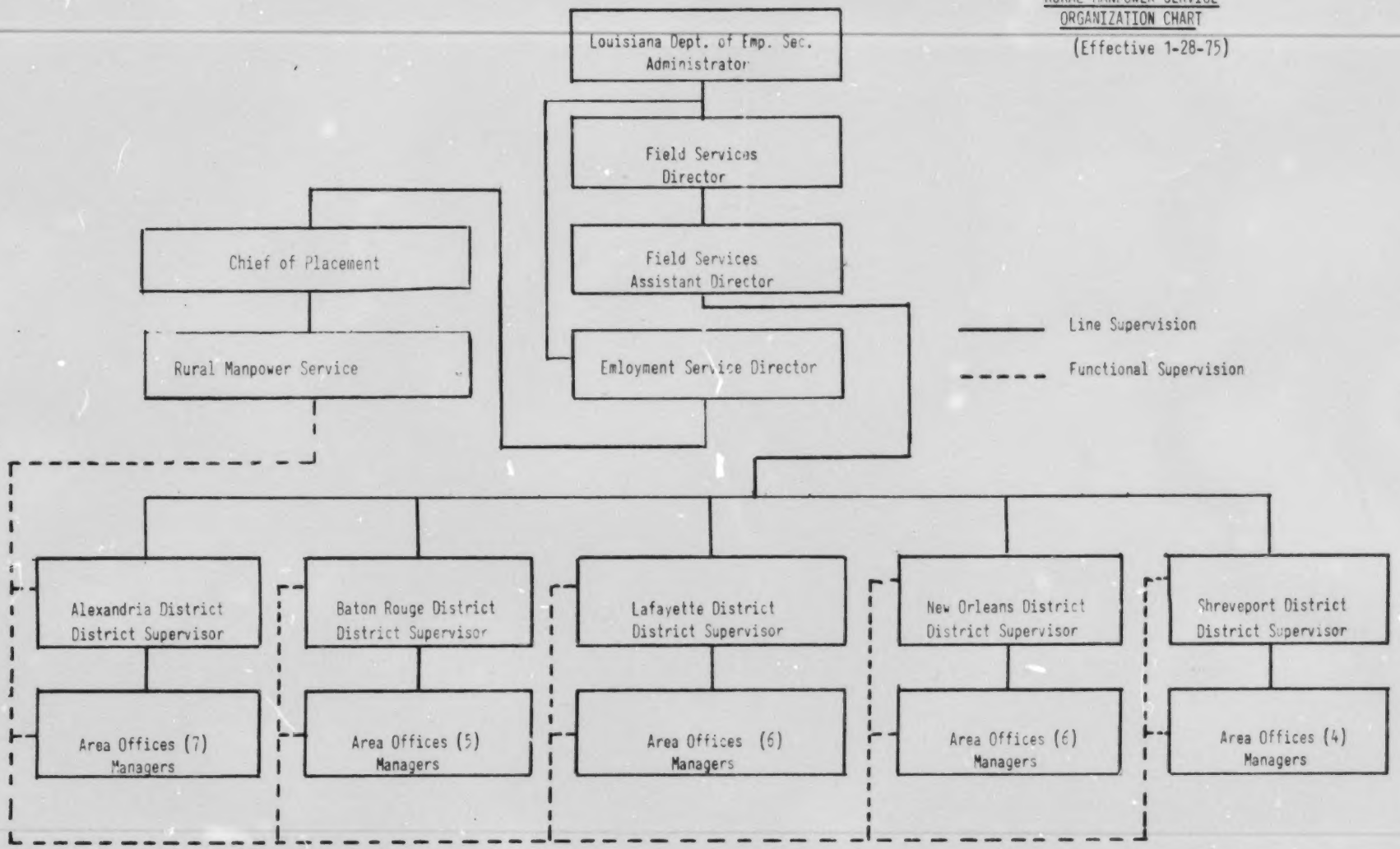
2. During January, February and October, 1976, Mr. Mark Cavell attended the CETA workshop. In this workshop, sponsored by the Governor's Manpower Counsil, the subject discussed was Section 303, Grantee, Title III.

3. Elliot Carlson attended the East Coast Apple Harvest Recruitment Planning Meeting in Washington D. C. on June 21st through 23rd, 1976.

Staff Training

During 1976, the Manager, E.S. Supervisor II, and E.S. Field Representatives, and MSFW staff were given training by the State Office and Regional staff in improving manpower services to rural applicants, and in particular to seasonal farm workers. Also State Office analysts trained various staff members throughout the year at the Administrative Office and at the Area Offices in the operations of various CETA programs and in ESARS-Job Bank procedures. Under the direction of Area Office Managers and E.S. Supervisors, initial and refresher training was given to operating staff in implementing Judge Richey Court Order regarding services to migrants and seasonal farm workers, with particular emphasis on the Applicant/ Worker complaint procedure, in order to have all staff members adequately equipped for providing manpower services to migrants, seasonal farm workers, rural applicants and employers and also for proper expediting and reporting of services and transactions rendered.

RURAL MANPOWER SERVICE
ORGANIZATION CHART
(Effective 1-28-75)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPACT OF RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Industrial investment in Louisiana during 1976 exceeded $1.1 billion and is expected to generate more than 7,400 new, permanent jobs, according to Lieutenant Governor James E. Fitzmorris, Jr., chairman of the State Board of Commerce and Industry.

Fitzmorris reported that preliminary industrial growth figures during the past year indicate there were 373 manufacturing projects initiated in the State.

Governor Edwin Edwards pointed out that industrial investment in Louisiana during 1976 marks the sixth straight year that "we have attracted more than a billion dollars in new and expanded facilities."

"Louisiana's track record," he continued, "indicates clearly that we are remaining competitive in industrial growth not only for our region, but also for the entire United States.

"Looking ahead," he said, "Louisiana should attract its share of both industrial investment and jobs if the state gets the support of every citizen, community and parish."

A breakout of the 373 projects, the Lieutenant Governor explained. includes 54 new manufacturing plants and 319 expansions of existing facilities.

Initial figures, Fitzmorris added, show that 7,433 new, permanent jobs and

18,447 construction jobs were, or will be, generated by the $1,108,390,380 of industrial investment.

New industrial plants in Louisiana, he continued, are expected to create more than 3,800 permanent jobs and exparsions of plants already located in the State will generate more than 3,600 permanent jobs.

Investment in new plants totaled $330,563,769 and plant expansions totaled $777,826,611, the Lieutenant Governor pointed out.

Fitzmorris emphasized that both the investment and job figures do not necessarily include all manufacturing growth in the State during the past year. However, he added, all known industrial projects had been canvassed in an effort to report accurate and reliable figure.

Investment by industrial category showed petrochemicals and petroleum refining with $798,314,787; food products, $42,173,258; pulp and paper, $34,060,225; lumber and wood products. $33,458,336; metals and machinery, $81,660,875; stone, clay and glass, $6,068,597; power generation, $41,250,000; apparels and textiles, $3,844,942; transportation, $43,845,400, and miscellaneous, $23,713,950.

Prior to 1976 the Department of Commerce and Industry reported only on 8 industrial categories. Because of the growth in apparel and textiles and transportation over the past few years, the Department has expanded the reporting system to 10 industrial categories.

Two industrial categories showed exceptional investment growth during the past

year, Fitzmorris said. They were food products with a 97 percent increase and lumber and wood products with a 104 percent gain.

In addition, industrial projects that have been announced but not yet processed through the Department of Commerce and Industry will result in more that 5,100 permanent jobs, Fitzmorris said.

Most of the announced industrial projects are expected to go on stream during 1977, he said. "It's encouraging to start a new year with a backlog of bright prospects," the Lieutenant Governor commented.

Looking to the future, Fitzmorris commented that there are trends emerging that show significant employment growth, especially in the labor-intensive areas of manufacturing.

Moreover, he concluded, progressive, business-oriented legislation coupled with plans to establish a new Department of Commerce will provide tools to allow the state to market its industrial advantages.

The demands of all employers were met; however, in many instances the employer had to be satisfied with skill levels below those demanded. In many cases the Louisiana Department of Employment Security was able to set up, in cooperation with other agencies and employer groups, training programs designed to help train adequate personnel to meet employers' demands. This tended to alleviate some of the problems in staffing skilled and semi-skilled jobs in both new and old industries.

With the continued expected increase in population of some 2 percent per year and a growing economy in most of Louisiana's rural parishes, demands for workers in all occupations will continue to increase not only in 1977, but well beyond the seventies. This will be particularly true in southern parishes, especially those situated along the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast.

The rural parishes of Louisiana have been active in seeking out new industries for their people. This has been accomplished in conjunction with the State Rural Development Committee and the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry.

As in past years, agricultural workers continued to move into nonagricultural jobs because of economic reasons. The majority of these agricultural workers moving into nonagricultural jobs belonged to the semi-skilled and unskilled classification.

The greatest demands in 1977 will continue to be oil field, petro-chem production and construction type workers in the southern half of the state. In the central and northern sections of the state the demand will continue for manufacturing type workers as well as some construction and service type workers.

There were no significant changes in demands for different types of rural workers in 1976. Women, youth and elderly workers were utilized in agricultural industries, while adult women and males were used in most nonagricultural wage and salaried jobs. It is expected that this trend will continue into 1977.

In 1976, there was no mass migration in or out of any rural parishes. However, rural communities are increasing in size because of job opportunities and other economic reasons. Many urban families are moving into rural areas adjacent to the urban areas but are continuing their employment in the urban area.

Also, the urban area continues to grow as the rural youth graduating from high school and college migrate to urban areas to seek technical and professional careers, as well as other jobs such as clerical and blue collar jobs. This is supplemented by the normal job transfers and migration patterns.

In 1976, as in past years, a considerable number of rural residents commuted to adjacent urban and rural areas seeking and maintaining employment. This is more prevalent in areas adjacent to heavy industrialized areas such as those found along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Data is not available as to the number of workers who migrate from rural areas each year. However, in parishes which are more remote from heavy urban concentration or large industrial developments, out-migration tends to exceed in-migration, whereas in parishes of heavy industrialization such as Ascension, West Baton Rouge, and St. James to name a few, in-migration tends to exceed out-migration.

The construction industry seems to attract the migrant worker more than any other industry when applying the strict migrant definition. Through the years, the custom has prevailed in the construction industry of moving to where the action is. Most large construction projects are unable to staff its crews with the highly skilled pipefitters, operators, electricians, etc., with local

labor. Because of this, skilled journeymen will move into an area for as long as the construction project is in operation. Upon completion of the project a relative small number will follow the particular contractor to another job site, while the majority will return to their place of residence while awaiting another near by job.

In many instances only the worker will migrate leaving his family behind to maintain his natural residence. However, some have no natural residence but move their entire families as they migrate from one construction job to another.

The 1973 Legislature, realizing the increasing demand for vocational-technical traning, adopted two acts which will revamp the entire system. The present school system of thirty-one schools will be expanded to forty-five facilities. This includes several new schools, merging of some, and relocating of others. These two acts will make possible the facilities and equipment requirements for a modern and fully coordinated system of post-secondary, vocational-technical education in Louisiana under the authority of the State Board of Education under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION, CHANGING PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, AND OTHER SHIFTING AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

There were no important changes in agricultural mechanization or production techniques during 1976 that had an appreciable affect on employment.

IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON THE STATE'S ECONOMY 1/

The value of principal crops grown in 1976 (excluding rice) totaled $727 million, up $179 million from 1975, according to the Louisiana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Soybeans were the state's most valuable crop, followed by cotton and sugarcane. Rice, when price data are complete, will be ranked in the "Top 4".

Soybean acreage harvested reached an all-time high for the third consecutive year, up 200,000 acres or 10 percent from 1975. Cotton acreage showed the greatest increase--250,000 acres above the record low of 1975. Rice acreage was down by 100,000 acres from 1975. Total harvested acreage of the principal crops increased 11 percent from a year ago to 4.17 million acres.

SOYBEANS - Louisiana farmers harvested a record high 2,120,000 acres for beans in 1976--up 10 percent from 1975. Production in 1976, at 55.1 million bushels is the highest of record. The crop is valued at a record high $358 million, up 59 percent from a year ago. Average price per bushel was $6.50, up $1.71 from 1975.

RICE - Acreage harvested for rice at 568,000 acres, was down 100,000 acres from 1975 and was the smallest acreage harvested in four years. The average

1/ SEE TABLE ON PAGE 15.

yield was up slightly at 3,910 hundredweight per acre, but production at 22.2 million hundredweight was down 11 percent from a year ago.

SUGARCANE - Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed at 7.8 million tons is up 13 percent from last year. Cane ground for sugar is estimated at 7.3 million tons and cane used for seed at 1/2 million tons. Yield per acre at 25.0 tons was up 4 tons from a year earlier, but harvested acreage fell 5 percent from the previous year. This year's crop is valued at $96.7 million, the lowest since 1972 and 27 percent below that of a year ago.

COTTON - Acreage harvested for cotton in 1976 totaled 560,000 acres, up 250,000 acres from the record low of 1975. Production, at 555,000 bales, was up 209,000 bales from a year earlier, while the average lint yield per acre was down slightly at 476 pounds. Value of the crop, including seed, is $191 million compared with the 1975 crop value of $99 million.

HAY - Production of all hay at 710,000 tons is 9 percent less than was harvested in 1975. Acres of hay cut totaled 370,000, 3 percent more than the previous year. Total value of all hay produced was around $35 million, 4 percent less than a year ago.

SWEETPOTATOES - Louisiana farmers in 1976 harvested 29,000 acres of sweetpotatoes, 1,000 acres less than a year earlier. Yields averaged 100 hundredweight per acre, up 15 hundredweight from 1975. The total production of 2.9 million hundredweight is valued at $13.1 million compared with 1975 production of 2.6 million hundredweight and a value of $13.4 million.

CORN - Production of corn for grain at 5.9 million bushels, is up 90 percent from last year. The average yield was up 16 bushels to a record high 68 bushels per acre, while the 87,000 acres harvested for grain was up by 45 percent. The value of grain produced is estimated at $16 million, 71 percent above last year and the highest since 1956.

PECANS - The 1976 production of 3 million pounds equals the record low of 1974 and is down sharply from the 32 million pounds produced in 1975. About 67 percent of this year's crop or 2 million pounds is composed of native or seedling pecans. Total crop value is estimated at $2.2 million compared with $11 million for 1975. The average price of 71.7 cents per pound is the highest of record and more than double the 1975 price of 34.3 cents.

LOUISIANA VEGETABLES 1/

Louisiana vegetable growers, in 1976, received an estimated $5,789,000 for their efforts. This is some 21 percent below the $7,334,000 received in 1975 and 8 percent below the $6,300,00 received in 1974.

Strawberries continue to lead other Louisiana truck crops in value of production with a value of $3,082,000 followed by tomatoes valued at $1,510,000; green peppers at $1,132,000; and processing vegetables, $65,000.

The STRAWBERRY crop value of $3,082,000 was down 18 percent from last year's $3,738,000 but was some 36 percent above 1974. Production at 67,000 hundredweight, was down 3,000 hundredweight or 4 percent from 1975 but up 22 percent

1/ See Table on page 15.

from 1974. The average yield at 70 hundredweight per acre was unchanged from 1975, however, the 950 acres for harvest was down slightly from a year ago. The average price of berries was 46 cents per pound also down from last year's price of 53.4 cents but slightly above the 41.2 cents received in 1974.

The 1976 TOMATO crop is valued at $1,510,000. This is 30 percent below the 1975 crop value of $2,162,000 and 41 percent below the 1974 value. Production is estimated at 68,000 hundredweight unchanged from a year ago but 31 percent below that of 1974. Harvested acreage at 800 acres was 50 acres below that of 1975 and 100 acres below the acreage harvested in 1974. The average yield at 85 hundredweight per acre was up 5 hundredweight from 1975 but down 25 hundredweight from 1974. Average price received by growers was $22.20 per hundredweight, down $9.60 from a year ago and $3.70 from 1974.

This year's GREEN PEPPER crop is valued at $1,132,000 down 13 percent from last year and 11 percent below 1974. The 1,400 acres harvested this year is unchanged from a year ago and 100 acres above 1974. Yields averaging 55 hundredweight per acre are up 22 percent from the 45 hundredweight of a year ago and 10 percent above 1974. Production of 77,000 hundredweight is also up 22 percent from a year ago reflecting the improved yield. Average price, at $14.70 per hundredweight was down 29 percent from the $20.60 received for the 1975 crop and 25 percent below that received in 1974.

Production of VEGETABLES for PROCESSING (cucumbers, tomatoes and spinach) is valued at $65,000 for 1976. This compares with $136,000 in 1975 and $199,000 in 1974. Production for 1976 is estimated at 580 tons from 250 acres compared with 1,000 tons from 250 acres in 1975 and 1,600 tons from 500 acres in 1974.

LOUISIANA: ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, 1976, WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	ACREAGE HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	UNIT
	1,000 ACRES		UNIT		1,000 UNITS		
COTTON LINT	310	560	1/535	1/476	346	555	BALE 2/
COTTONSEED	-	-	-	-	125	206	TON
CORN FOR GRAIN	60	87	52.0	68.0	3,120	5,916	BU.
CORN, SILAGE	15	19	11.5	12.5	173	238	TON
CORN, FORAGE	2	3	-	-	-	-	
WHEAT	25	35	16.0	33.0	400	1,155	BU.
OATS	8	10	33.0	48.0	264	480	BU.
RICE	658	568	1/3,810	1/3,910	25,064	22,203	CWT.
SUGARCANE (INCL. SEED)	329	312	21.0	25.0	6,909	7,800	TON
SORGHUM, GRAIN	28	37	33.0	36.0	924	1,332	BU.
SORGHUM, SILAGE	8	8	11.0	11.0	88	88	TON
SORGHUM, FORAGE	4	4	-	-	-	-	
POTATOES, IRISH	2.6	2.6	70	75	182	195	CWT.
SWEETPOTATOES	30	29	85	100	2,550	2,900	CWT.
SOYBEANS, BEANS	1,920	2,120	24.5	26.0	47,040	55,120	BU.
HAY, ALL	360	370	2.16	1.92	777	710	TON
TOBACCO	.15	.17	400	850	60	145	LB.
STRAWBERRIES, ALL	1.0	.95	70	70	70	67	CWT.
PEACHES	-	-	-	-	3,000	7,000	LB.
PECANS, ALL	-	-	-	-	32,000	3,000	LB.
PECANS, IMPROVED	-	-	-	-	5,000	1,000	LB.
PECANS, NATIVE	-	-	-	-	27,000	2,000	LB.
TOTAL ABOVE CROPS	3,761	4,166					

1/ POUNDS PER ACRE. 2/ 480 POUND NET WEIGHT BALE.

LOUISIANA: SEASON AVERAGE PRICE AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION

CROP	UNIT	PRICE		VALUE OF PRODUCTION 1/	
		1975	1976	1975	1076 2/
		DOLLARS		1,000 DOLLARS	
COTTON LINT	LB.	.528	3/.637	87,690	169,697
COTTONSEED	TON	94.00	105.00	11,750	21,630
CORN FOR GRAIN	BU.	3.00	2.70	9,360	15,973
WHEAT	BU.	2.95	3.30	1,180	3,812
OATS	BU.	1.50	1.65	396	792
RICE	CWT.	8.38	4/	210,036	4/
SUGARCANE (INCL. SEED)	TON	19.30	12.40	133,344	96,720
SORGHUM, GRAIN	BU.	2.69	2.30	2,486	3,064
POTATOES, IRISH	CWT.	4.50	4.50	819	878
SWEETPOTATOES	CWT.	5.25	4.50	13,388	13,050
SOYBEANS, BEANS	BU.	4.79	6.50	225,322	358,280
HAY, ALL (BALED)	TON	46.50	49.00	36,131	34,790
TOBACCO	LB.	1.45	1.50	87	218
STRAWBERRIES, ALL	CWT.	53.40	46.00	3,738	3,082
PEACHES	LB.	.205	.160	615	1,120
PECANS, ALL	LB.	.343	.717	10,980	2,150
PECANS, IMPROVED	LB.	.360	.950	1,800	950
PECANS, NATIVE	LB.	.340	.600	9,180	1,200
TOTAL ABOVE CROPS				5/548,266	5/727,406

1/ VALUE OF PRODUCTION ESTIMATES RELATE TO THE CROP YEAR AND SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH CASH RECEIPTS WHICH RELATE TO SALES DURING A CALENDAR YEAR. 2/ PRELIMINARY. 3/ AVERAGE TO JANUARY 1, 1977 WITH NO ALLOWANCE FOR UNREDEEMED LOANS. 4/ STATE ESTIMATE NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1976. 5/ EXCLUDES THE VALUE OF RICE.

LOUISIANA VEGETABLE SUMMARY, 1976, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Year	Acres for Harvest 1/	Yield per Acre	Production	Price per Unit	Value 2/
		Acres	Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES						
SNAP BEANS						
Spring 5/	1976	-	-	-	-	-
	1975	500	34	17	22.00	374
	1974	600	33	20	16.90	338
CABBAGE						
Winter 5/	1976	-	-	-	-	-
	1975	800	115	92	4.34	399
	1974	800	100	80	4.50	360
Spring 5/	1976	-	-	-	-	-
	1975	700	95	67	5.79	388
	1974	600	100	60	4.04	242
GREEN PEPPERS						
Spring	1976	1,400	55	77	14.70	1,132
	1975	1,400	45	63	20.60	1,298
	1974	1,300	50	65	19.60	1,274
TOMATOES						
Spring	1976	800	85	68	22.20	1,510
	1975	850	80	68	31.80	2,162
	1974	900	110	99	25.90	2,564
WATERMELONS						
Summer 5/	1976	-	-	-	-	-
	1975	2,600	82	213	4.73	1,007
	1974	2,600	85	221	3.84	849
TOTAL FRESH MARKET						
	1976	2,200	-	145	-	2,642
	1975	6,850	-	520	-	5,628
	1974	6,800	-	545	-	5,627
VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING: 3/				TONS		
	1976	250	-	580	-	65
	1975	250	-	1,000	-	136
	1974	500	-	1,600	-	199
STRAWBERRIES: 4/						
Spring	1976	950	70	67	46.00	3,082
	1975	1,000	70	70	53.40	3,738
	1974	1,100	55	55	41.20	2,263

1/ Acreage available for harvest, including mature acreage abandoned or only partially harvested because of low prices or other economic factors, 2/ Value is for marketing season and does not necessarily correspond to calendar year income. 3/ Cucumbers for pickles, tomatoes, and spinach. 4/ Includes small quantities processed. 5/ Estimates discontinued in 1976.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

RURAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1/

The rural economy in Louisiana stopped its downward spiral during 1976 as overall employment increased and unemployment decreased. The rural economy reflected some mixed movements in various industries. Depending on demands some industries were able to expand while other industries were either held to their present level or showed a slight decline.

Louisiana's rural labor force increased form 456,100 in 1975 to an estimated average of 466,000 in 1976 or an increase of 2.25 percent.

Total employment increased from an average of 413,200 in 1975 to an average of 426,900 in 1976. This represents an increase of 3.31 percent.

Average employment of rural nonagricultural wage and salaried workers increased from 285,000 in 1975 to an estimated average of 289,100 in 1976. This represents an increase of approximately 1.4 percent. While increases are shown from 1970 to 1975 the rate of growth is reflected by a diminishing ratio.

Rural manufacturing employment reversed the downward trend during 1976. In 1975, it was estimated that some 64,700 individuals were employed in manufacturing industries whereas, in 1976 some 65,200 were reported employed or an increase of some 0.77 percent.

Losses in 1976 were registered in lumber and wood products, however, the losses were offset by gains in primary metals, textile products, food and kindred and

1/ SEE TABLES ON PAGE 27 AND 28

all other manufacturing.

Average rural employment in nonmanufacturing industries increased form 220,400 in 1975 to 223,900 in 1976. This represents a net gain of some 3,900 or 1.77 percent.

Rural Unemployment Trends

Average total unemployment decreased from 42,900 in 1975 to 39,500 in 1976 or a decrease of some 3,400. The unemployment rate averaged 9.4 in 1975 and decreased to 8.5 in 1976. The national unemployment rate for 1976 indicates that Louisiana rural work force suffered less than the rural labor force on a national level.

In Louisiana during 1976 the annual average rural unemployment rate was 8.5 percent or some 1.0 percent more then reported statewide. In 1975 the rural unemployment rate was 9.4 percent or 1.1 percent greater then the state average.

Tables showing statewide and rural employment and unemployment trend appears in the attachment section of the report.

Farm Employment Trends

The average number of agricultural workers on the farm in Louisiana has remained fairly stable during the past three (3) years. However, during these years considerable fluctuation has occurred during certain months.

The fluctuation from month to month reflects the influence of seasonality. For example, during the months of September and October agricultural harvest in Louisiana is at a peak with such crops as sugarcane, cotton, hot peppers, hay,

rice, corn, soybeans and vegetables being harvested. This peak tapers off in November and December as harvest activities begin to cease in rice, vegetables, hay and soybeans. The greatest lull appears in January when most field activities are at a standstill. Activity begins to increase in February as farmers begin to prepare land for spring planting.

FAMILY WORKERS

The average number of family workers on the farm was approximately the same in 1976 as reported in 1975 but some 6,200 more than reported in 1974. The decrease in 1974 is attributed to farm modernization, consolidation and economic reasons. As reported in the preceding paragraph, peak employment of family workers is controlled by seasonality with peaks occurring during September and October when agricultural activities are at their highest.

The composition of the family workers on the farm includes older workers, women, children, and adult males. Also during the summer months the number of family workers usually increase with addition of school age children on summer vacation.

REGULAR HIRED WORKERS

The number of regular hired workers (working 150 days or more each year) has shown a slight decline over the past several years. The reasons for this decline is due primarily to the decreasing number of small farms and growers using more seasonal workers to perform tasks which were previously performed by the regular hired workers.

In 1976, there was little or no change in skill requirements from that of

previous years. However, the number of skilled workers willing to accept full time agricultural employment continued to decline. Most skilled workers, because of economic reasons, prefer to work in nonagricultural industries.

In recent years modern farming practices are requiring the use of increasingly complex equipment. This has resulted in farmers having progressively more difficulty in securing skilled agricultural equipment operators.

During the past three years farmers have been forced to recruit semi-skilled or unskilled workers who possessed an aptitude for learning the skills required in modern farm operations. However, a majority of these workers, upon becoming skilled, leave agricultural employment for jobs in nonagricultural industries because of economic reasons.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seasonal Agricultural Employment tends to fluctuate as crop, weather conditions, market and the rural economy changes. Also the type of crops planted and the number of acreage affects employment.

Over the past years, Louisiana has remained fairly stable in the various crops planted; however, there has been some shift in acreage allocation. This has had some affect on the employment of seasonal employment and in particular when growers reduce acreages in heavy labor using crops and revert to crops which are more mechanized.

The following table shows seasonal agricultural employment trend for this period 1971 through 1976.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVR
1971	1450	1600	2500	3875	7325	9950	8900	5100	6175	11625	11025	6600	6344
1972	2700	1475	2850	5200	8850	9250	6950	5650	6250	10250	9225	4975	6135
1973	3500	2050	3100	3525	6600	7225	5550	6650	4825	9600	11400	8400	6035
1974	1925	1700	3250	5850	5225	6275	6125	5700	4750	8675	6850	6125	5200
1975	1600	1350	2075	3725	3850	4850	3700	2675	3300	5625	5875	4925	3625
1976	1450	1275	1950	3600	3700	4100	3500	2375	3175	4950	5125	4725	3325

The above table indicates a downward trend in seasonal agricultural employment. This downward trend began in 1971 and is expected to continue as farms become larger and more mechanized. Also contributing to the downward trend in seasonal employment is the general shortage of individuals willing to accept low farm wages.

Another factor which contributes to the decline in seasonal employment is the disappearance of crew-type operations. As the older crew leader retires from the scene, his crew breaks-up, because the younger workers do not wish to be burdened with the problems of controlling and recruiting employment for his workers.

Seasonal employment for selected crops appears in the attachment section of this report.

RURAL MANPOWER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FARM WORKERS

Efforts of the ESRMS were further redirected during 1976 to comply with the

Judge Richey Court Order. Major emphasis has been placed on the provision of service to migrants and seasonal farmworkers by the total staff of the Employment Service. This was in conjunction with the expansion of services to the rural areas, removed from the effective range of local offices. Employer visitation programs were stressed; however, only in the nonagricultural segment was an increase made. A total of 1,002 agricultural employer visits were made in 1976 compared to 1,736 in 1975 or a decrease of 42%. A total of 8,759 rural nonagricultural employer visits were made in 1975 compared to 9,543 in 1976, or an increase of 9.3%.

It must be pointed out that in the redirection of effort to bring complete ES services to the rural community, with no additional funds or staff, that service coverage to the agricultural segment necessarily suffered.

Agricultural placements (excluding mass) totaled 834 in 1976. Increased efforts in nonagricultural placement is reflected in that 18,815 different rural applicants were placed in 1976 compared to 20,350 placed in 1975.

Since Louisiana is a surplus labor state and generally able to take care of its own labor needs there was very little in-migration. The little out-of-state labor that entered the state free-wheeled in as a result of direct negotiations with employers. As order holding state, Louisiana did not extend any seasonal agricultural orders. From about the end of March to approximately May the third, there was an estimated 90 seasonal workers from Texas harvesting strawberries in the Hammond area. These workers came into the area through long standing arrangements with growers and not as a result of interstate clearance orders. Of the migrants entering Louisiana for the strawberry harvest very few contacted the Agency for assistance of any kind. Other agencies gave assistance as needed.

The Employment Standards Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor has responsibility for the administration and certification of the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act, Public Law 88-582, as amended. We assisted by accepting applications for registration and transmitteng these applications to Employment Standards. During 1975, only five crew leaders made application through the Department of Employment Security.

Special effort was exerted to assist Louisiana based migrants to find employment on their return from out-of-state seasonal jobs. Individual migrants and seasonal farm workers served during 1976 totaled 550 individuals filling new or renewed applications. Of this total 36 were provided counseling, 50 were tested, 19 were enrolled in training and 117 or 21% were placed in employment.

SERVICES TO RURAL PEOPLE

The LDES through the Rural Manpower Service portion of the Employment Service Section provided a comprehensive program of service to rural, and agricultural, including seasonal agricultural and migrant people in Louisiana during 1976. This program encompassed aggressive action in the provision of services to migrants and seasonal farmworkers in keeping with the U. S. District Court Order requiring the National Office and all affiliated state agencies to provide qualitatively equivalent and quantitatively proportionate services to this special group. Also included in the program was a continuation of service to rural residents, both applicants and employers, through an aggressive employer relations program, placement service, and promotion of training programs. Additionally, the RMS participated with the National Office in the program of certification of rural loan and grant applications under Section 118 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. A total of 18 loan applications

were processed in calendar 1976 as compared to 30 in 1975.

The Employment Service Section has encouraged Area Office Managers to implement part time outreach offices to provide essential manpower services to rural residents including migrants and seasonal farmworkers. During 1975, approximately 45 of these outreach points were operated whereas during 1976 some 46 outreach offices were operated.

During 1976, a total of 85,593 new and renewed applications for rural residents were processed, of which 2810 were provided counseling, 5102 were tested, 1716 were enrolled in training and 18,815 different individuals were placed in jobs.

During the year, 1002 visits were made to agricultural employers and efforts of the Agency in filling agricultural job openings aided employers in meeting their labor needs in crop production with a minimum amount of delay almost entirely with Louisiana labor. The Agency also made 9543 visits to rural nonagricultural employers which likewise aided these employers in meeting their labor needs.

An evaluation of the overall accomplishments of the Rural Manpower Service Program during 1976 definitely indicates the expansion of services to Louisiana's rural residents including migrants and seasonal farmworkers is sound. Plans for further expansion of the program have been implemented.

RURAL MANPOWER SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Encouraging strides were made in 1976 in the promotion and development of rural areas. Rural Manpower Service played an important role in this program.

Area manpower information was maintained, updated and made continuously available to educational institutions, chambers of commerce, governmental agencies and employer and labor groups as necessary for planning, reporting and expediting manpower programs. Information furnished included estimates of unemployment and employment in particular broad-band occuaptions, labor market information, wage rates, availability of local labor and other specially requested surveys of manpower resources.

Cooperative efforts of the RMS staff with rural parish police juries, mayors, chambers of commerce and various community action groups as well as the Department of Commerce and Industry and other governmental agencies resulted in the introduction of many new industries to rural areas and expansion of existing facilities. Introduction of these new and enlarged facilities created job openings for several thousand employees throughout the state.

Rural Manpower Service worked closely with the Welfare Department in helping welfare recipients through employment and training services. At the same time needy applicants were referred to the Welfare Department for assistance.

Through cooperation with the Department of Louisiana Library, a pilot project is being operated in parish libraries to provide Job Information Service to patrons including referral to the local Employment Service Office.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

During 1976, the Rural Manpower Service attempted to keep the public informed through the fair use of all normal media of public information about Area Office operations and Services and to advise all workers, employers, and the general

public on employment conditions and other labor market information.

The above was accomplished by:

1. Contact with elected and administrative officials of the towns and parishes in the Area Offices' jurisdiction.

2. Contact with other government agencies and sub-units such as public health, ASCS, county agents, public education and representatives of other official government groups.

3. Contact with the various public news medias such as newspapers, radio and television.

4. Contact with local organizations including civic, commercial, social industrial, agricultural, professional and fraternal groups.

5. Contact with church organizations.

6. Contact with other community resources which are concerned with rural employment.

In addition to the above, Area Office Rural Manpower Service personnel used handbills, posters, promotional mail, and personal contacts with workers and employers in promoting agency services.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

Annual Averages Employment and Unemployment

1970-1975-1976

	1970	1975	1976
	State Total	State Total	State Total
Civilian Labor Force	1,290,000	1,415,000	1,448,800
Total Unemployment	87,000	117,100	107,800
Percent of Labor Force	6.7	8.3	7.5
Total Employment	1,203,000	1,297,900	1,341,000
Nonag. Wage & Salary Empl.	1,041,600	1,199,400	1,207,800
Manufacturing	175,400	182,400	183,000
Durable Goods	77,600	83,300	83,200
Lumber & Wood Prod.	16,100	16,500	16,400
Furniture & Fix.	1,200	1,400	1,300
Primary Metals	5,100	6,100	6,200
Fab. Metals	9,500	11,000	11,300
Mach. Except Elec.	5,500	7,900	7,900
Electrical	4,900	7,600	7,800
Transportation Equip.	18,900	21,600	21,300
All other Durables	8,600	11,200	3,000
Nondurable Goods	97,800	99,100	99,800
Food & Kin. Prod.	31,100	27,600	26,700
Textile & Apparel	8,900	11,400	11,700
Printing Publishing etc.	6,900	7,600	7,700
All Other Nondurable	50,900	52,500	71,100
Nonmanufacturing	866,200	1,017,000	1,024,800
Mining	50,700	55,500	55,400
Contract Const.	73,800	90,100	90,800
Trans. Comm. Utilities	92,600	97,100	97,600
Trades	230,000	276,400	278,400
Wholesale	64,600	74,900	74,900
Retail	165,400	201,500	203,500
Fin. Ins. & Real Est.	48,700	58,800	59,200
Service & Misc.	157,200	193,200	195,000
Government	213,200	245,900	248,400

Employment and Unemployment Trends
in Rural Areas 1970 - 1975 - 1976

Items	1970	1975	1976
Civilian Labor Force	414,800	456,100	466,400
Total Unemployment	31,800	42,900	39,500
% of Labor Force	7.7	9.4	8.5
Employment	383,000	413,200	426,900
Non Ag. Wage & Salary Empl.	249,700	285,100	289,100
Manufacturing	60,700	64,700	65,200
Durable Goods	27,900	32,300	32,500
Lumber & Woods	10,100	10,300	10,000
Furniture & Fix	800	900	900
Primary Metals	1,500	1,800	1,800
Fab. Metals	2,800	3,300	3,700
Mach. Except Elect.	1,600	2,300	2,300
Electrical Mach.	1,100	1,700	1,700
Trans. Equip.	6,700	7,700	7,800
All Other	3,300	4,300	6,100
Non Durable Goods	32,800	32,400	32,700
Food & Kindred	9,900	8,000	8,100
Textile & Apparel	2,500	3,200	3,600
Print & Pub. Etc.	1,200	1,300	1,400
All Other Non Durable	19,200	19,000	19,600
Non Manufacturing	188,950	220,400	223,900
Mining	19,300	21,100	21,200
Contract Construction	27,900	34,100	35,300
Trans, Comm. & Ut.	24,000	25,100	25,600
Trades	47,100	56,500	57,100
Wholesale	10,300	11,800	11,900
Retail	36,800	44,700	45,200
Finance, Real Est. & Ins.	7,500	9,000	9,500
Sev. & Miscellaneous	22,100	27,100	27,300
Government	41,100	47,500	47,900

EVALUATION, PROBLEMS, PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During 1976, ESRMS technical staff conducted visits to Area Offices covering programatic reviews or follow-up. Additional visits were made as part of the team on the reports validation program.

Reviews and up-dates were conducted involving the Area Offices' Plans of Service for FY-1977. Also, technical program assistance as well as trianing visits were conducted as the need arose or as requested.

In 1976, Area Offices operated approximately fifty-five (55) out-reach operations in areas removed from the effective range of offices. These points were operated from one(1) to five (5) days a week, usually for a period of from one (1) to four (4) hours per day. Several offices have been able to make use of other agencies' staff and facilities, in a hitch-hike type of operation, with supervision of the operation by ES Grants staff.

In 1976, training was conducted on the comprehensive guidelines for implementation of the Richey Court Order, as required by the National Office. Administrative, District and Area Office staff members were trained, including U.I., WIN and CETA staff. Approximately 1,300 staff members received this training during 1976.

The previous year problem of new staff members' need for training and subsequent increased productivity has begun to be solved. Retirements, and promotions, etc., still cause some temporary problems.

Economic conditions, lack of transportation, and need for improved housing in rural areas still remain with us, but gradual improvements are noted.

On going monitoring of Area Offices' implementation of the Secretary's 13 Point Program and Judge Richey's Court Order continues to take a prominent position in the ESRMS technical staff operations. Offices have been required, since October 1975, to prepare the monthly Indicators of Compliance Report regarding the comprehensive guidelines for implementation of the Judge Richey Court Order. These reports are compiled into the statewide report by the ESRMS technical staff. On-site reviews of office operations under the Self-Appraisal program are conducted with a coordinated Court Order review when possible. Separate Court Order reviews are scheduled when it is not possible to coordinate the two procedures.

SELECTED DATA ON FARM PLACEMENT OPERATIONS
LOUISIANA
1976

ITEM	NUMBER
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY AREA OFFICE	
1. Towns with day-haul points	1
2. Number of day-haul points	1
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year	46
4. Total number of workers transported during year	2140
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (under 22 years)	
5. Supervised camps operated for school-age workers	0
a. Placements in camps	0
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes	
SECTION C. SERVICE TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	
a. Farm placements	0
b. Applicant-holding acceptances	0
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians	0
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9. Number of local offices which held farm clinics	0
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held	0
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs	0
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives	0

DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED
BY LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
1976

	DAY-HAUL POINTS		
	NUMBER	DAYS OPERATED DURING	WORKERS TRANSPORTED DURING
Ponchatoula	1	46	2140

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

STATE: Louisiana

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: 1976

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUP'S WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
I TYPE	II BY REPORTING STATE	III WITH REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS	I TYPE	II NUMBER	I TYPE	II NUMBER
1. Total	9	9	2. Total Persons	116	4. Families	0
a. Crew Leaders	4	4	3. Total Workers	116	5. Unattached Males	0
b. Family Heads	0	0			6. Unattached Females	0
c. Others	5	5				

The migration pattern shows a decrease of 47%. It is estimated that approxi- 75 free-wheelers from Texas came into Louisiana for a brief period in strawberry harvest. No MA 7-85's were received on these workers.

INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES - 1976

Section A. Louisiana As Order-Holding State

Applicant Holding State	Number of Orders Extended	Number of Orders Filled	Number of Openings Extended	Number of Openings Filled
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

Section B. Louisiana As Applicant-Holding State

Order Holding State	Number of Orders Received	Number of Orders Filled	Number of Openings Received	Number of Openings Filled
New York	2	0	475	0
TOTAL	2	0	475	0

Remarks:

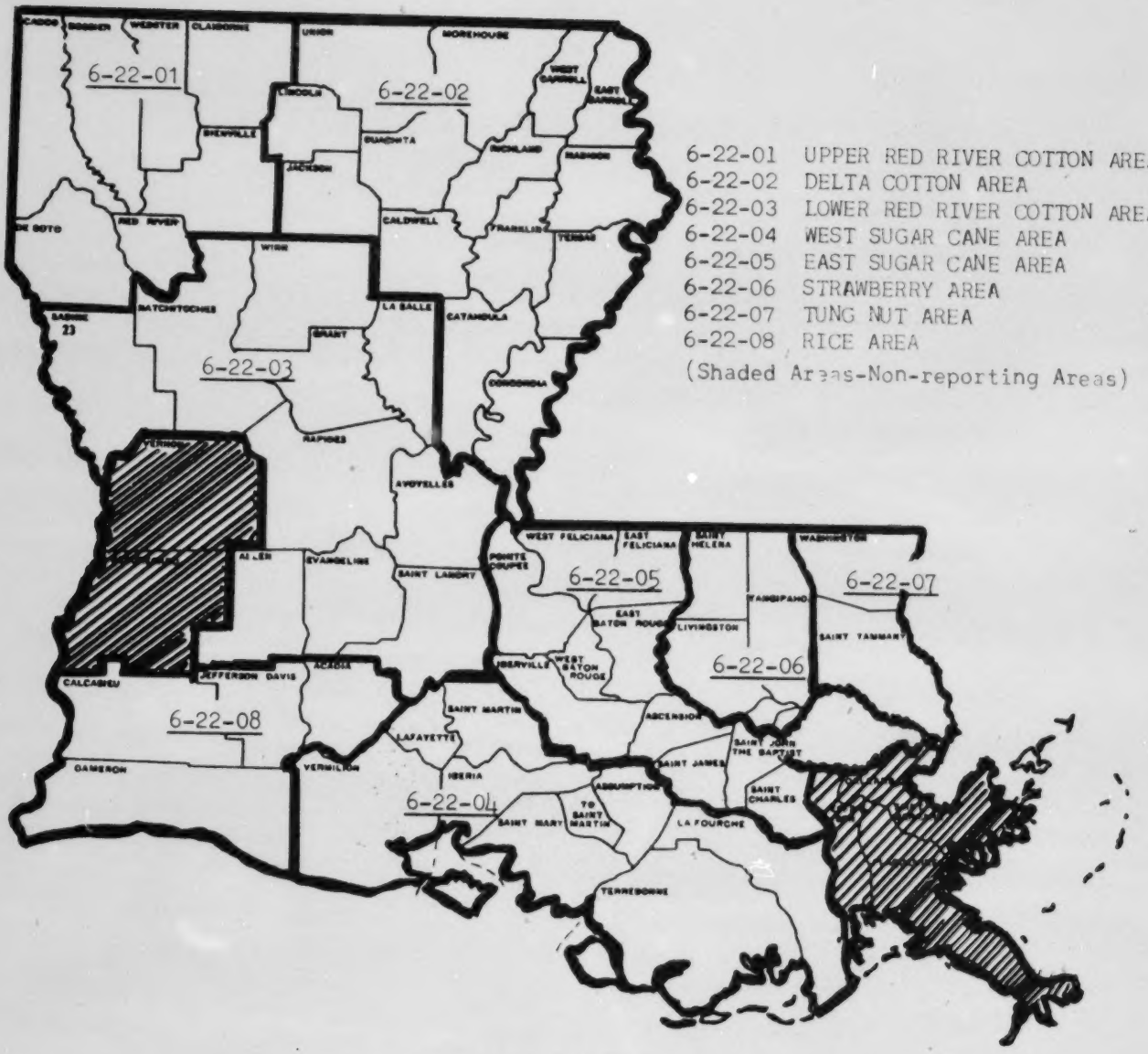
Louisiana recruited workers for this order, however, no workers were shipped because of employer's refusal of these workers.

PART II

ATTACHMENTS

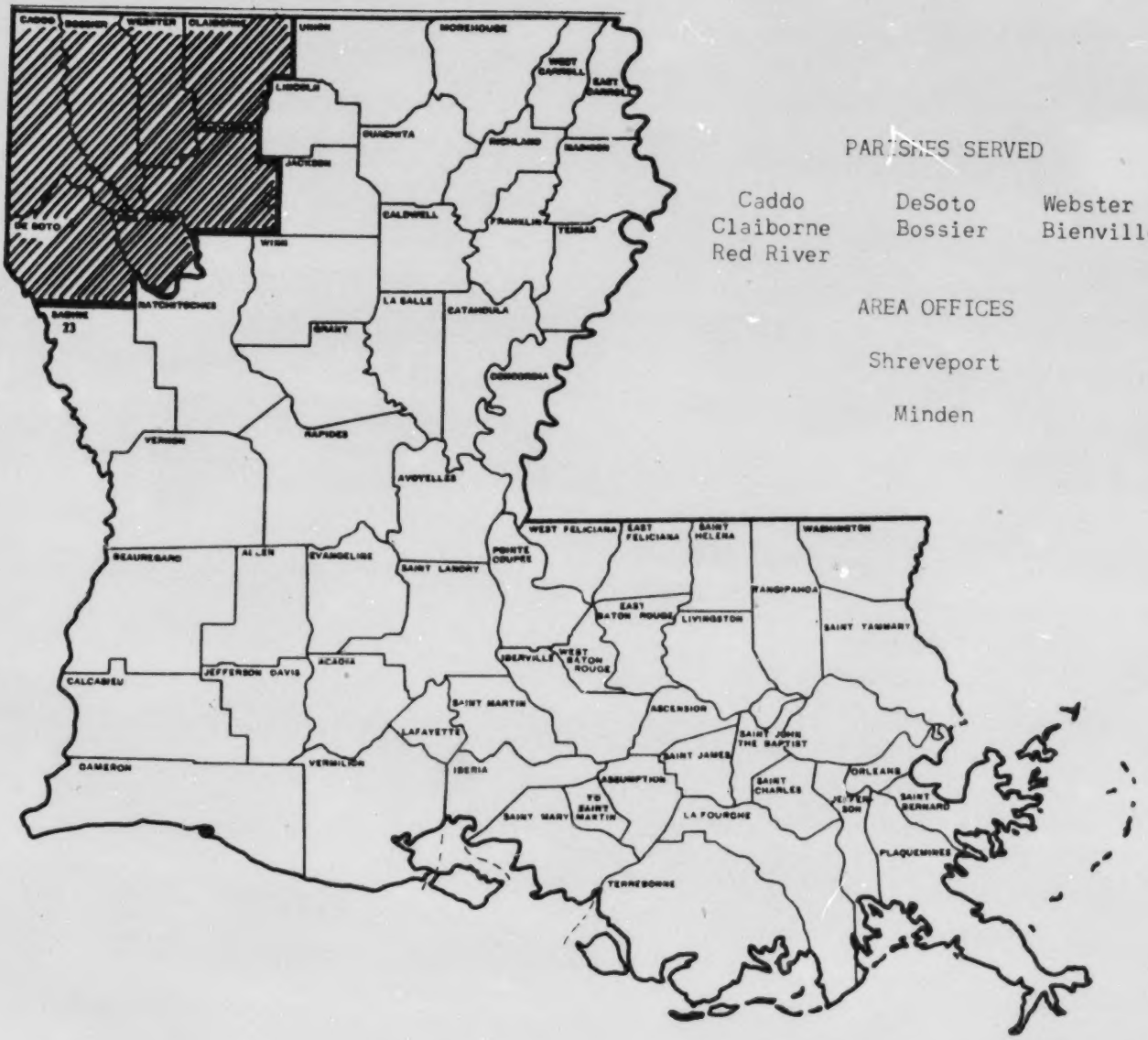
LOUISIANA

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



STATE OF LOUISIANA
AGRICULTURAL REPORTING AREAS

Louisiana is divided into eight (8) agricultural reporting areas and two (2) nonreporting areas. A brief summary of each reporting area is given on pages through of this report.



PARISHES SERVED

Caddo	DeSoto	Webster
Claiborne	Bossier	Bienville
Red River		

AREA OFFICES

Shreveport

Minden

THE UPPER RED RIVER COTTON AREA

The Upper Red River Cotton Area is located in the northwest corner of the state and serves the parishes (counties) of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster. This seven parish (county) area is served by two area offices located in Shreveport and Minden.

The primary agricultural field crops in the Upper Red River Area consists of

cotton, soy beans, hay, vegetables and grain. In addition to field crops, beef, cattle and dairying also contribute to the agricultural economy in the area.

Agricultural employment has been declining in the area for a number of years. The decline is attributed in part to mechanization, shift in agricultural acreage and the general aversion to agricultural employment by the younger age groups.

Most Seasonal workers are employed in such agricultural activities as vegetable planting, cultivation and harvest; pecan harvest; hay harvest; and cotton cultivation and harvest. These workers are generally composed of middle age and older blacks with approximately seventy percent (70%) male and thirty percent (30%) female. During summer vacation, some school age youths joined the agricultural work force.

The employment of non-agricultural workers in the rural area has shown an increase during the past few years as more small manufacturing industries begin to locate in the area. The primary manufacturing industries locating in the area are wood products and apparels, high users of hand labor.

The economic outlook for the area is good for the nonagricultural segment; however, as previously stated agricultural opportunities will continue to decrease as more agricultural land is converted to other use and farmers reduce acreage in labor producing crops and increase acreages in nonlabor using crops.

Timetable of Seasonal Farm Activities

Cotton Cultivation.....May through July

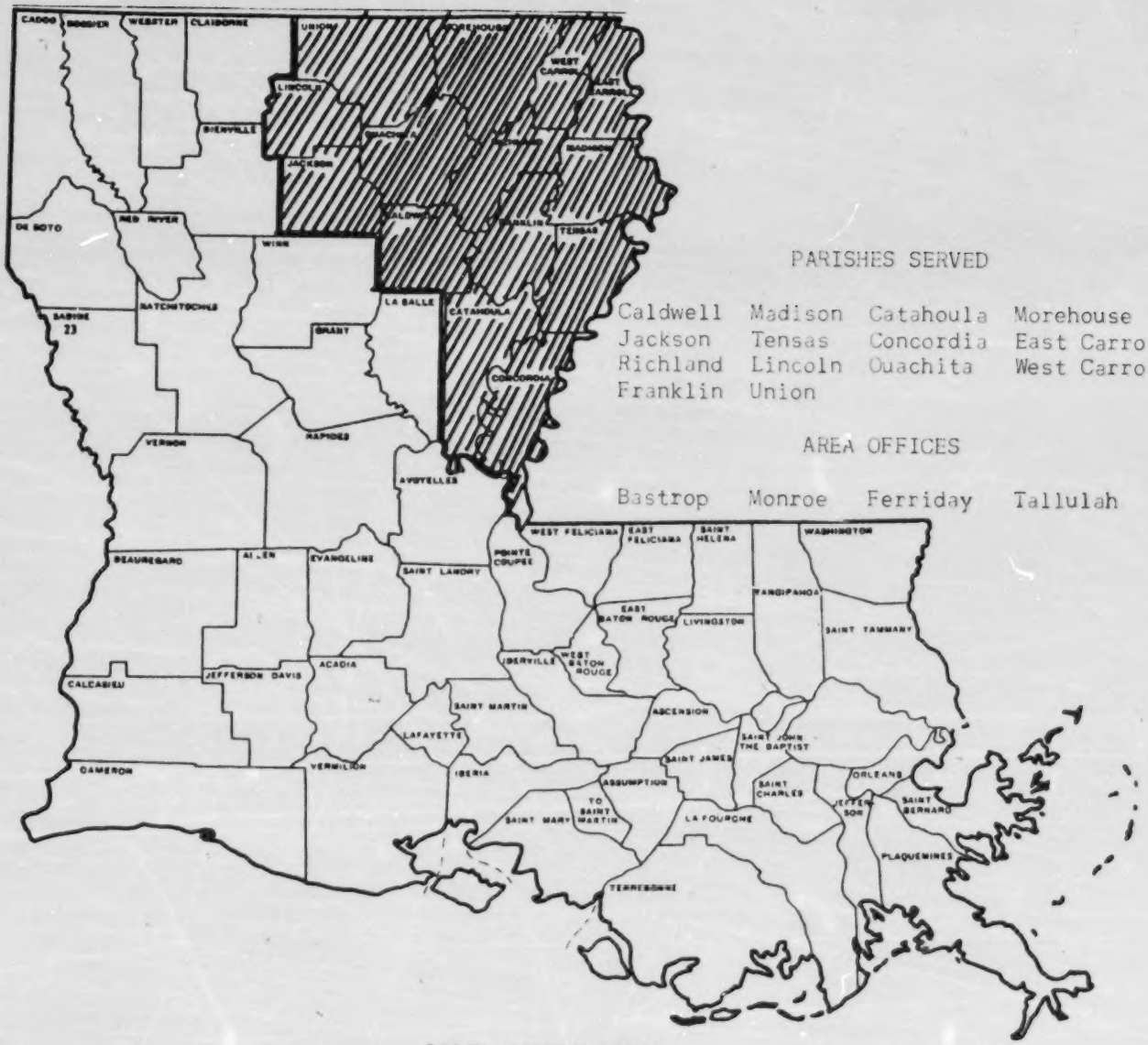
Cotton Harvest.....September through November

Mixed Vegetable Harvest.....June through October

Peach Harvest.....June 15 through August 15

Soybean Cultivation.....May through July

Soybean Harvest.....October through November



PARISHES SERVED

Caldwell	Madison	Catahoula	Morehouse
Jackson	Tensas	Concordia	East Carroll
Richland	Lincoln	Ouachita	West Carroll
Franklin	Union		

AREA OFFICES

Bastrop	Monroe	Ferriday	Tallulah

DELTA COTTON AREA

The Delta Cotton Area is located in the northeast corner of the state and serves the parishes (counties) of Caldwell, Jackson, Richland, Franklin, Madison, Tensas, Lincoln, Union, Catahoula, Concordia, Ouachita, Morehouse, East Carroll, and West Carroll. This fourteen parish (county) area is served by four area offices located in Bastrop, Monroe, Ferriday, and Tallulah.

MONROE AREA OFFICE

The General Motors Guide Lamp Plant near Monroe started production in 1975 producing rectangular auto head lights. The plant employment reached over 600 during 1976. The proposed peak employment will be approximately 800 workers over the next year when full production is reached. The Guide Lamp does their hiring of assembly line workers exclusively through the Monroe Area Office. The International Mineral and Chemical Company (formerly Commercial Solvents) expansion began during 1975 at the Sterlington plant. The several million dollar expansion program will be mainly on plant facilities with only a small number of additional workers being added. In the west portion of Ouachita Parish the Plymouth Tube Company completed their building and started their production in 1976. Expected peak employment will be approximately 150 workers. The Plymouth Tube Company hires their workers through the Monroe Office. There have been no noticeable industrial development in the surrounding rural parishes.

There are no growth centers or new towns in the rural parishes. Skilled job opportunities in a wide range were fair during the year. However, there was an over supply of unskilled workers during the year.

There were no major shifts among rural occupations in 1976. The established trend of workers moving from agriculture to agri-business and non-agricultural industries continued.

There was no significant change in the demand for different groups of workers or employees during the year.

Vocational training schools in the rural parishes provide opportunities for unskilled workers to obtain a craft or trade. Many of the graduates find related employment within the surrounding areas or in the Monroe Area.

Workers continue to migrate from rural parishes to urban parishes where jobs are more plentiful. Caldwell, Franklin and Richland Parish residents normally migrate to Ouachita Parish while Jackson Parish residents migrate to Lincoln Parish. The wood and paper industry in Jackson Parish offers a wide range of employment for area residents.

Farm Employment Trends:

The composition of the labor force continues to be about the same as in previous years. The seasonal farm worker consist of local elderly men and women supplemented by youth looking for temporary work. Young middle aged adults are seeking more lucrative employment in non-agricultural fields.

Crop farming is very diversified with cotton, soybeans and rice being the principal money crops. Other agricultural activity includes catfish farms, grain crops, pecans, corn, hay, dairy and cattle farming. Good weather conditions prevailed throughout the harvest season.

There were no major shortages of seasonal or regular farm labor over the past year, however demand was heavy during harvest season.

The economic and changing farming conditions continue to cause a lot of the small farmers to sell or lease their land to large farmers. The majority of the displaced farm family workers leave agricultural employment for jobs in non-agricultural industries.

FERRIDAY AREA OFFICE

During the year, a considerable amount of construction work took place. This work involved the construction of a levee system in the two-Parish area. This work offered many jobs to local residents. Most of the construction was com-

pleted during the year, very little is left for 1977. In the coming year, there will be at least one construction project awarded. At the present time, it is not known if any industries are planning to locate in the area.

Several of the local towns have formed Economic Development Councils in attempts to secure new industries for their respective towns. Two towns have completed construction of industrial parks in efforts to induce industry. During the past year, prospective companies were interviewed but none has shown an interest in locating in the area.

During the past year, there was a shortage of heavy equipment operators due to an increase in construction work. Due to the shortage, employers had to train many workers in order to fill their needs. With much of this work completed, these workers will have to seek work in other fields if they want to stay in the area. At present no marked increase in demand for separate classes of workers is expected for the coming year.

There was a slight movement of agriculture workers to non-ag businesses during 1976. This was due mainly to higher wages paid in non-ag businesses.

No changes in demand for different groups of rural workers, such as women, youth and the elderly took place during the year and none are anticipated for the coming year.

The Ferriday office sponsored an Auto Mechanic training school during the past year. A sufficient need for mechanics was found prior to starting of the school. The school ended during September 1976. Most of the trainees were placed in mechanic related occupations after completion of the training course.

A public trade school is located in Ferriday. This school offers clerical, auto mechanic and welding training. Several students were enrolled through

this office, under the CETA program, for the above mentioned training. This school has kept local shortages in clerical, auto mechanic and welding to a minimum.

There was a slight out-migration of workers. Most are youth with little or no work experience. They seemed to have moved into the larger cities, mostly in the Northern States. There was no pattern established in the type of work sought. There was no in-migration to speak of.

Impact of Agricultural Mechanization, Changing Production Techniques and Other Shifting Agricultural Trends:

Land was still being cleared, during the past year, in order to put the land in row crops. This big increase in crop acreage will cause a slight increase in worker demand. No big increase in demand is anticipated because the use of multi-row equipment, such as six and eight row, is widely being used to offset any labor shortage. The use of herbicides has all but eliminated the use of seasonal workers. No other changes in production techniques have taken place that would affect the labor market.

Rural Non-agricultural Employment Trends:

There was a large increase in non-agricultural employment due to an increase in construction activity. New backwater levees were built and existing ones enlarged. Most of this work was completed during the year.

Unemployment was down during the summer and fall months because of activity in construction work. This work offered many jobs which normally would not have been available. No new industries moved into the area during the year other than construction.

Unemployment rate for this area was about the same as the rest of the State.

Farm Employment Trends:

Almost all of the seasonal work force are non-whites. Most of these workers are adult females with mixed youth during summer months and on weekends during the school term. Most of the workers are on public assistance programs with the farm work supplementing their income. Many of these workers are not seeking full time work. No foreign workers are used in the area during the past year.

Cotton and soybeans are the major crops for this area. Regular hired workers are used to prepare seed-beds, plant, cultivate and harvest these crops. Six and eight row equipment is used in production of these crops. The tractor operator has to be alert at all times to prevent damaging of the crop. It is very helpful if the operator can make minor adjustments to the equipment and also if he knows how to correctly mix the herbicides used on the crops.

There was a slight shortage of seasonal workers during the past year. This was due mainly to the enactment of the Farm Labor Contractor Law covering crew haulers that traveled over a 25-mile radius from their home base. In the past, most of the seasonal farm labor used in this area had to travel more than 25 miles. To keep from paying the added expense of being covered under the Law, the crew leader just got out of the business completely.

There has also been a decline in the number of farm family workers. Many of the smaller farms have been combined into larger farms, thus eliminating the need for these workers. Most of these displaced families moved to other farms or to town to work in non-agricultural employment.

Services for Rural People:

The Ferriday Office provided services such as application taking, placement,

referral to training and Manpower Programs, supportive services or referral to agencies providing needed services and follow-up. Also job development was provided. An itinerant Counselor was hired in August 1976 to work in the Ferriday Office. She is available for one day a week. Testing was provided on a limited basis. There was no test technician in this office to give tests. Job Bank was made available to applicants seeking work in other areas.

Special groups such as Veterans, Youth, Handicapped, the Disadvantaged, Older workers and Migrant Seasonal farm workers were offered the same services as all other applicants with Veterans getting priorty.

One week out of the year is declared "Hire the Handicapped Week" to make the public aware of this special group.

A CETA funded school in Auto Mechanic Training was started in December 1975 and ran until September 1976. This school was initiated to supply the need for mechanics in the area.

TALLULAH AREA OFFICE

The Tallulah area is predominately an agricultural area. The economy of the area depends a great deal on the crops in the area. (Crops were average), but farmers received a very good price for their product. Soybean prices ranged from $5.00 to $8.00 per bushel. Cotton ran from .50 to .80 per pound.

Weather conditions varied considerably throughout the year. Farmers that were lucky and planted at the right time and received rain when needed made very good crops. The Fall was very dry and crops were harvested earlier than usual. An early freeze damaged late maturing cotton.

Agricultural placement was difficult due to the early harvest of crops. With

efficient and modern equipment, the harvest season was very short. Most farmers were through harvesting by the end of November.

BASTROP AREA OFFICE

No large industry moved into the area; however, several construction sites provided work for skilled, semi-skilled and some unskilled workers. Several new retail establishments were opened providing some jobs in services and sales. Plans were discontinued for a shopping center after land clearing was completed. Banks and finance companies in the area are continuing to build new branches, as are the food service and retail grocery businesses.

Paper manufacturing, pulpwood, logging and garment manufacturing are the primary endustries in the three-parish area. An $8 million construction project which will provide jobs for a number of skilled workers for the next two years is expected to begin soon at the local paper mill.

One garment plant reduced total employment by 125 workers in 1976 due to lack of orders. Overall, it was a better year than 1975 for the manufacturing industry in the area. In summary, the construction and manufacturing industries are remaining stable; whereas the trend for services, government and finance is toward expansion.

Skilled craftsmen and service workers were in heavy demand during the year. Agricultural workers continue to move from agricultural jobs to non-agricultural industries or services.

The garment industry uses a work force composed, for the most part, of women. As previously stated, a decline of over 100 of these workers occurred in 1976, but some of these unemployed women are expected to be recalled in 1977. There is also expected to be a slight increase in demand for women in other industry

in the coming year. No change in the demand for youth or older workers is anticipated.

A farm equipment mechanic school and an auto body repair school under CETA were completed in 1976. A total of 35 individuals were trained and were all placed in area jobs. Another farm equipment mechanic school began in October with 15 enrollees. In December, a school for refrigeration mechanics began with 12 enrollees. With less-than-class CETA funds, 18 persons received training in various occupations including licensed practical nurse, cosmetologist, welder and office procedures. Approximately 35 individuals were enrolled in Job Corps.

A vocational school is under construction in Morehouse Parish which will greatly benefit people in the area, especially those with transportation problems. Four curricula will be offered at the opening of the school in June: welding, auto mechanics, licensed practical nurse and clerical occupations. West Carroll Parish residents will be benefited by the vocational school being built in Lake Providence, since residents of the parish have had no training institution within commuting distance.

Union Parish has a vocational school with programs for business, electronics, auto mechanics and nursing.

Farm Employment Trends: Agricultural employment showed no decline in 1976 which is a change from recent trends. This can be explained through the fact that more acreage was farmed plus better weather conditions prevailed creating more demand for farm workers this year.

Major characteristics of seasonal workers employed in the major crops of cotton, soybeans, and rice are adult males from 18 to 40 years of age, skilled and unskilled, Black, from the local area. No foreign workers are seasonally employed

with the exception of a gin crew from southeast Texas. This crew has come to the area for several years and consists of 15 to 25 experienced workers.

Most of the farm workers in the area are regular hired hands employed for all major crops and for cattle and dairy farms. Most regular farm hands must be skilled in operation and maintenance of complex, expensive equipment and machinery used by area planters. There has been no recent change in their skill requirements.

The only shortage of labor existed in peak harvest time when all planters were trying to take advantage of the good weather and get their crops harvested at the same time. Weather was excellent for harvesting in 1976 and this problem was solved by waiting until labor was available. The area office always tries to place any surplus farm workers in non-agricultural or agricultural jobs, or enroll them in training.

Farm family workers are employed primarily in the vegetable crops such as sweet potatoes and tomatoes. Women and children are employed in these two crops more than men. Very few women and children are employed in the larger crops because of mechanization.

Timetable for Seasonal Farm Activities:

Cotton Planting.....April through May

Cotton Cultivation.....May through June

Cotton Harvest.....September through November

Tomato Harvest.....June through July

Sweet Potato Harvest.....August through October

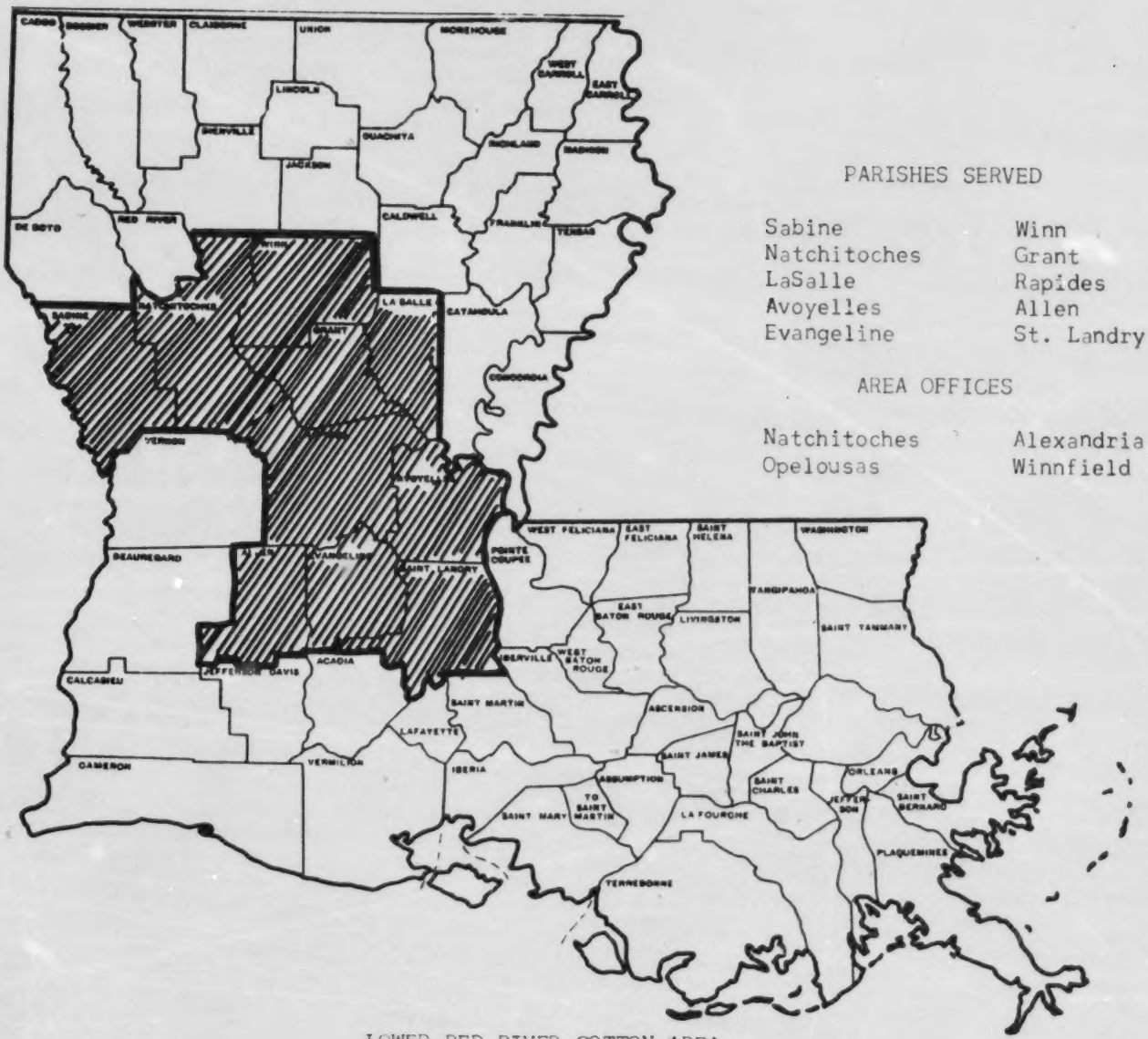
Peach Harvest.....June 15 through August 15

Pecan Harvest.....October 15 through December 15

Soybean Planting.....April through May

Soybean Cultivation.....May through July

Soybean Harvest.....October through November



PARISHES SERVED

Sabine	Winn
Natchitoches	Grant
LaSalle	Rapides
Avoyelles	Allen
Evangeline	St. Landry

AREA OFFICES

Natchitoches	Alexandria
Opelousas	Winnfield

LOWER RED RIVER COTTON AREA

The Lower Red River Cotton Area is located in the central portion of the state and serves the parishes (counties) of Sabine, Natchitoches, LaSalle, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Winn, Grant, Rapides, Allen and St. Landry. This ten parish (county) area is served by four area offices located in Natchitoches, Alexandria, Opelouses, and Winnfield.

ALEXANDRIA AREA OFFICE

The location of new and expanded non-agricultural industries in rural area continue to provide employment opportunities for unskilled workers who normally seek farm employment.

Industrial Development

Simmesport Industries, a Division of Garan Garment Manufacturing Company, started operation in Simmesport, located in Avoyelles Parish during 1976.

The Ditto of California Garment Manufacturing Company has started construction on an addition to their plant in Colfax in Grant Parish. This plant presently employs 450 workers with plans to employ an additional 100 workers in 1977.

Farmland Industries, Inc. and Anhydrous Ammonia Manufacturing Facility started construction of their plant in 1976. Plans are to start operation in March, 1977, and will employ 50 workers. This plant is located near Pollock in Grant Parish.

Rural Development Activities

The Avoyelles Parish Action Committee, North Centrala, Inc. of Grant Parish and the Rapides Parish Rural Development Committee, composed of business and civic leaders and assisted by Parish, State and Federal representatives continue to work to attract more industries and promote the industrial growth of rural areas.

Shift in Rural Occupations and Industries

Current trends indicate that the number of regular hired farm workers and seasonal farm workers continue to decline each year. Most workers having marketable farm skills are not satisfied with current farm wages and seek

employment in non-agricultural occupations. As more non-agricultural industries locate in rural areas it is anticipated the number of workers leaving farm jobs to seek other employment will increase.

Women, Youth and Older Workers

The majority of the new and expanded rural industries employ approximately 90% females. Most of the female workers previously worked in farm employment as housewives. The seed corn growers use high school students to detassel the seed corn each summer. The job opportunities for older workers are not expected to significantly change during 1977.

Vocational Training in Rural Communities

The Louisiana Department of Employment Security provided 2 CETA funded training classes for rural residents during 1976. The Stenographer school, located in Pineville enrolled 15 trainees from Avoyelles and Grant Parishes. The Automobile Mechanic school located in Marksville enrolled 15 trainees from Avoyelles Parish. During 1976, the Louisiana Department of Employment Security Contract Service Representatives wrote 47 CETA training contracts with rural employers for 78 training openings.

Mechanization

The extensive use of mechanical harvesters has been the greatest factor affecting the use of seasonal farm labor during the past few years. For all practical purposes, all major crops are planted and harvested by machine. Mechanical farm equipment has been approved to such an extent that practically no limitations exist relative to their operation. Corn detasseling machines were used extensively to detassel the seed corn in this area during 1976. Increased usage of this equipment will further decrease the need for seasonal labor.

Farm Employment Trends

The composition of the seasonal work force has shown no significant change. Seasonal workers for the most part are Negroes. Approximately 80% are generally unskilled workers or high school students who return to temporary unskilled jobs or school when the seasonal farm work is over. The females are generally housewives or part-time domestic workers.

Farm employers generally train year-round workers to operate all farm equipment utilized on the farm. Skilled farm workers usually work for the same employer from year to year. Most of the younger workers, however, leave the farm to seek employment in non-agricultural jobs with higher rate of pay.

Generally, supply and demand for seasonal workers was in balance. Recruitment methods have changed due to fewer workers seeking farm employment. Most of the farmers are able to obtain sufficient labor by having their permanent workers recruit workers from their immediate families or friends. There are no crew leaders or labor haulers working in the Alexandria area. The farmers growing seed corn use high school students to detassel the corn.

The number of farm family workers are declining each year due to improvements in farming methods and extensive use of mechanical equipment. Most farmers no longer provide housing for workers.

NATCHITOCHES AREA OFFICE

The Natchitoches Area Office serves the parishes of Natchitoches and Sabine. Based upon the census definition of rural population both parishes are statistically considered to be totally rural. Therefore, all services provided by the Natchitoches Area Office to residents of these two parishes would have to be statistically counted as services provided to rural non-farm workers by rural

non-farm employers. Fiscal year 1976 planned for a substantial increase in rural non-farm employers in Sabine Parish and some increase of Local Office staff to accomodate the increased need for service. Fiscal year 1977 expects some continued growth in both Natchitoches and Sabine parishes in the area of rural non-farm employers and hence, tentative plans call for sustained service demands.

Economic Developments

Both parishes have increased development of interest groups to entice and encourage community growth. The Chambers of Commerce, J. C. 's and community development groups have been highly active and effective in locating and bringing new industry into the area.

Agricultural review of fiscal year 1976 revealed the farm gross income for Natchitoches Parish in 1976 was estimated to be about seven million dollars higher than 1975.

The cotton crop acreage was increased from 12,500 acres in 1975 to almost 19,000 acres in 1976. This had an estimated gross income of $8,137.00, resulting in some farm employers hiring additional labor during the cotton cultivation season. There were approximately 125 seasonal farm workers hired for short job duration throughout the crop year. The soybean crop acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, which increased about 3500 acres over 1975. All local crops had a very favorable planting, growing and harvesting season. The 1976 estimate from the soybean crop was about $4,151,000. The area farmers experienced near ideal weather in their various crop activities. The local cotton harvest season started around the middle of September, which was earlier than the past harvest seasons. The cotton market price was excellent, reaching .66 per pound in mid November. The soybean market price varied during the months of October and November, but the bean price moved up .40 in mid November to $6.54 per bushel.

Cottonseed sold for up to $111.00 per ton in about the month of October, 1976.

The local pecan crop was the lowest in total production in the history of the industry. The livestock and poultry income reports shows an estimated income of $5,074.00. However, some of this income came from the liquidation of beef herds with oncoming trends of lower beef production in this area.

The following new industries and related ES production figures were achieved in 1976:

(1) Hughes Manufacturing Company, Pleasant Hill, La., hiring about 40 employees.

(2) Vanply Pre-Finished Products, Many, La., hiring about 30 employees.

(3) Zwolle Rail Car Service, Zwolle, La., hiring 20 employees in mid-year, 1976.

(4) Mid-South Truck Terminal, Natchitockes, La., reported hiring about 12 employees.

(5) Sonic Eating Establishment (New Business) opened in December, 1976, hiring about 10 employees.

(6) Peoples State Bank, Zwolle, La., added about six employees.

(7) Big Star Grocery Store, Zwolle, La., adding on about eight new employees.

A total of 126 jobs reported in new industries for 1976. The overall economy review for 1976 showed approximately 290 additional jobs resulting in several industries throughout the office area, including parishes of Natchitoches and Sabine.

Impact Of Rural Industrialization and Related Developments

During Fiscal Year 1976 new industrial activities and increased CETA funded activities established a significant trend of placing heretofore seasonal farm workers into permanent higher paying non-farm occupations. Higher paying jobs increased in both the private and public sectors which created a demand for

workers. Many farm workers were placed in job opportunities that used related skills and hence created a significant decrease in agricultural statistics. The agriculture related industries replaced individual workers with increased mechanization.

Both Winn and LaSalle parishes are becoming industrialized. The process began several years ago and is nearly complete. There is very little agricultural employment or activity in either parish. Winn Parish is now primarily a producer of wood and manufactured wood products.

LaSalle Parish is primarily a producer of crude oil, natural gas, manufactured wood products and insulated wire products.

The Winn Chamber of Commerce has attracted a new industry to Winn Parish, a garment plant which will begin pilot operations in early 1977. The plant will eventually employ about 250 workers, mostly women in sewing operations. This plant will provide an opportunity for women to find jobs, an opportunity that has been lacking in years passed.

Winn Parish is becomming a major producer of wood products, primarily plywood, lumber and wood chips for paper production. Occupational patterns are shifting from outdoor jobs to blue collar jobs in manufacturing-machine operators and equipment operators. There is a decreasing need for unskilled labor. Job opportunities for women are increasing as more jobs in manufacturing plants materialize. Managerial and supervisory occupations, as well as skilled craftsmen such as electricians, are in demand. Occupational patterns in LaSalle Parish are relatively unchanged.

Winn and LaSalle Parishes have not had any significant agricultural production for several years. The change from an agricultural to a manufacturing economy

took place several years ago so no further dramatic changes are expected. However, changes in mechanization and production techniques are putting agricultural workers out of work in surrounding areas, primarily Natchitoches and Catahoula Parishes. Many of these workers now commute to jobs in Winn and LaSalle Parishes. In effect, this trend has increased the labor supply for our area.

In Winn Parish non-agricultural employment is primarily in logging and wood products manufacturing. The area is heavily dependent on plywood plants, sawmills, veneer plants, pole mills, creosoting plants, chipmills, and logging crews. Forestry related activities are the backbone of our economy. Government workers, service workers, mining workers, transportation workers, and wholesale and retail workers make up the bulk of the non-manufacturing work force. Jobs in manufacturing industries are higher paying jobs than most of the others and the growth of manufacturing jobs in the area has increased the average weekly wage considerably.

Out-migration in the area has just about become counterbalanced by in-migration. Out-migration is primarily by young unskilled workers and minorities who migrate to urban or heavily industrialized areas where job opportunities are more numerous. In-migration is primarily by skilled workers, white collar workers, managers and supervisors to fill positions in manufacturing plants that cannot be filled by local people. Migration of either type has not seriously affected the area population because the population of both Winn and LaSalle Parishes has remained fairly stable for the last several years. There are more workers now who commute to jobs in this area than those who commute out of the area. Winn Parish in particular is drawing commuting workers from all the surrounding parishes, while LaSalle Parish is drawing commuting workers from Catahoula and Grant Parishes.

Timetable for Seasonal Farm Activities:

Cotton Planting.....April through May

Cotton Cultivation.....May through July

Cotton Harvest.....September 1 through November

Soybean Cultivation.....May 10 through July

Small Grain Harvest.....July through August

Sweet Potato Planting.....May through July 15

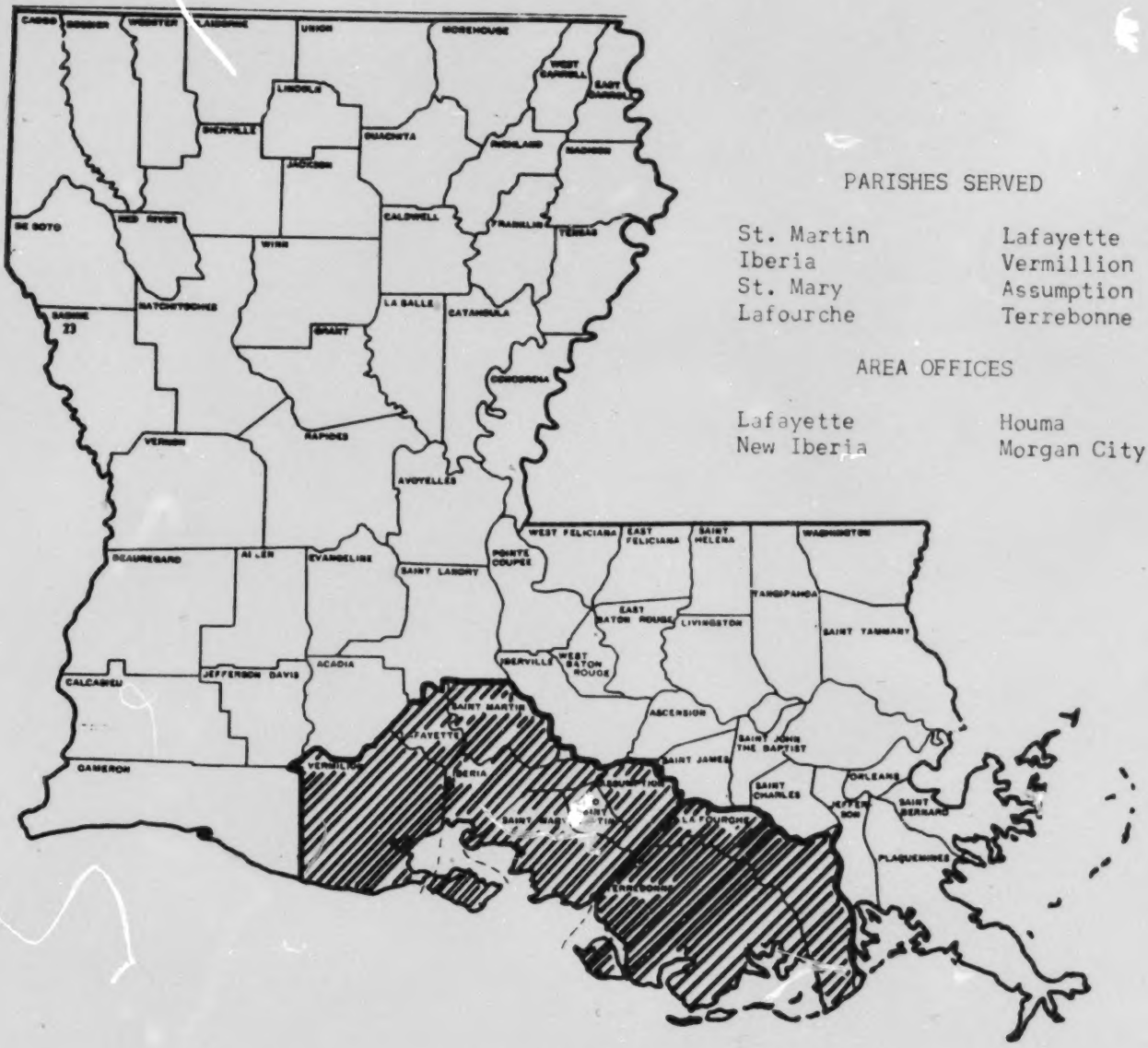
Sweet Potato Harvest.....August through October

Sugar Cane Planting.....August 15 through October 15

Sugar Cane Cultivation.....April through June

Sugar Cane Harvest.....October 10 through December

Pecan Harvest.....October through December



PARISHES SERVED

St. Martin	Lafayette
Iberia	Vermillion
St. Mary	Assumption
Lafourche	Terrebonne

AREA OFFICES

Lafayette	Houma
New Iberia	Morgan City

WEST SUGAR CANE AREA

The West Sugar Cane Area is located at the southern end of the state and serves the parishes (counties) of St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Lafourche, Lafayette, Vermillion, Assumption, and Terrebonne. This eight parish (county) area is served by four area offices located in Lafayette, New Iberia, Houma, and Morgan City.

MORGAN CITY AREA OFFICE

During 1976, the Morgan City Area Office emphasised the placement of migrant and seasonal farm workers and the coordination of services to the Chituwacha Indians in the Charenton area.

During 1976, freezing weather and excessive rainfalls resulted in the abandonment of some 1000 acres of sugar cane. This loss resulted in a decreased need for seasonal agricultural workers as well as adverse impact on the agricultural economy.

Also the adverse weather affected employment of rural nonagricultural employment. As a result construction employment was down. Also affected was the off-shore drilling operations and petroleum service operations.

HOUMA AREA OFFICE

During 1976, the Houma Area Office continued to serve the six parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John and Terrebonne. The office also operated outreach points throughout the year to increase services to rural applicants and employers. These points included the Thibodaux Trailer, Napoleonville Itinerant Point, LaPlace Field Center, and Job Service points at Boutte, Hahnville and Vacherie.

During 1976, the rural areas continued to experience expansion of non-ag industries particularly in petroleum and related services, retail trade, shipbuilding and fabrication. New school and hospital construction was also experienced including a new charity hospital which will open in the Houma area in late 1977 or early 1978. Throughout the year there was a continued demand for skilled workers in shipbuilding, fabrication and oil field services, particularly

for welders, fitters and mechanics. Since a continued increase in population and industrialization is expected in most of the rural parishes for the next few years, we can likewise anticipate a continued demand for services in all fields of endeavor and a continued shortage in skilled and semi-skilled workers. Means of resolving these shortages will be further discussed in other parts of Economic Development.

The office again participated during 1976 in rural development activities, primarily in assisting new employers to establish their firms in rural areas. As information was made known on new employers or industries locating in the area, letters were prepared and mailed by the E.S. Supervisor II and Manager offering office services and asking them to contact our office when they would first come to the area. This was followed by E.S. Field Representatives visiting them as soon as it was known they had arrived in the area in order to obtain their labor needs and in most instances get the employers to utilize our office facilities and to direct recruitment in the office. This constant alert was maintain throughout the year to assist new employers in staffing their establishments. Close relations and cooperation were also maintained with Chambers of Commerce in providing manpower information as needed in attracting new industries. During November, the office submitted an article entitled "South Louisiana Area Economic Trends" to the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce for inclusion in its annual report for 1976.

Agricultural workers continued to move to non-agricultural industries offering more benefits and higher wages. Also, due to continued expansion in oil field and related services, retail shipbuilding and fabrication industries in rural areas, there was a continued demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers.

This has caused more employers to accept trainees on their own as well as through various manpower training programs effected by the area office.

The main change in demand for different groups of rural workers during 1976 was the continued demand for female workers in fabrication and oil field related services including offshore cooks, welders, fitters, truck drivers, offshore kitchen helpers and galley hands. In rural agricultural and related activities, particularly seafood processing, females, youth and elderly (male and female) workers continued to be the main labor source. The above trends are expected to continue in 1977.

During 1976, seasonal farm workers in the principal crop activities, sugar cane planting and harvesting, consisted of 25% females, 15% youth and 75% older workers. These groups averaged 80% black and 20% white and consisted primarily of workers with farm and farm related background, including seasonal seafood workers. During 1976, the seasonal labor force included all local workers.

The major crop utilizing regular hired farm workers continued to be sugar cane farming. Cattle raising was second in utilizing regular hired farm workers, but the office did not experience any demand for workers in this activity. Other than some shortage in tractor and farm equipment operators, there were no significant recent changes in skill requirements.

There were no significant shortages or surpluses of seasonal and regular farm workers during 1976, except for some lack of farm equipment operators as brought out above. Even during peak agricultural activities, there were no labor needs of significant proportions remaining unfilled and made known to this office.

Due to utilization of some sugar cane acreage for industrial development, there was a slight decrease in sugar cane acreage during 1976 and a likewise

proportionate decrease in regular and seasonal farm family workers in sugar cane farming. This trend is expected to follow or get worse in 1977 due to the low price for sugar received and adverse weather conditions experienced during the 1976 sugar cane harvest season, resulting in loss of money by many farmers.

There were no significant developments in employment and number of farms in minor crops during 1976.

The Terrebonne Vocational Technical School and the South Louisiana Vocational Technical Institute located in Houma provided training in various skills including drafting, auto and diesel mechanics, welding, electronics, licensed practical nursing and other needed skills in the area for both urban and rural residents. Plans for 1977 call for an extension of South La. Vocational Technical Institute to be located in Thibodaux, Golden Meadow and LaPlace. In addition to the above vocational schools, the area office continued to effect CETA-Institutional classes for various skill shortage occupations throughout the 6-parish area. The occupational training under CETA-Institutional included welding (cluster and pipe), fitter, clerical, inhalation therapy, rotary driller helper, cook (offshore) and CETA-Institutional less-than-class training in other various shortage occupations. A total of 468 applicants were enrolled in the above CETA-Institutional and less-than-class training, and the schools were located in various towns of the area, including Houma, Thibodaux, Labadieville, Boutte, LaPlace, Hahnville, Mathews and Gramercy. The majority of the applicants enrolled in these schools were rural residents. In addition to CETA-Institutional, the office enrolled 98 applicants in various CETA-OJT programs including auto mechanic and body repair, refrigeration mechanic, accountant, oil tool repairer, sales, clerical, TV repair, dental and chiropractor assistants, bank teller, etc., and about half of these were

effected with rural residents.

In spite of the above training and that which is carried out by area employers on their own, there is still a continuous demand for skilled workers in all above mentioned occupations due to a continued expanding economy in the area, and from all indications, the shortage in skills will persist in future years. Accordingly, office plans call for a continued expansion of training programs to be included in rural parishes in the future.

LAFAYETTE AREA OFFICE

Non-agricultural wage and salary employment remain the same with very little variation from last year. The seasonal Food Processing Industry remains an important source of employment in the rural parishes. The garment industry will increase production in rural areas in the future and this will have an effect on employment trends, with a slight rise in employment indicated. Some new retail industry has increased employment in some rural parishes.

Seasonal workers were employed in sugar cane and pepper planting and harvesting. Most rice farming is done mechanically and by the tenant farmers.

There is little need for seasonal workers in the rice industry due to mechanization and work being done by the family unit.

The workers used for sugar cane harvesting and planting were local unemployed seasonal agricultural and food processing workers, male and female, black and white. About 20% were youth, while 80% consisted of older workers. The majority of unskilled workers were black males.

Local labor is available in both seasonal and regular hired farm workers. Many farmers complain of a shortage due to the fact that seasonal workers will work

a day or two and quit. This has caused farmers to go to mechanization. Therefore, decreasing the need for labor.

The garment industry, food processing industry, oil industry and retail industry continues to expand.

With the expansion of the garment, food processing, and oil industry there is a greater demand for personnel. Most will be semi-skilled laborers, such as women who will operate sewing machines. Crayfish peelers for food processing and laborers for the oil industry.

The retail outlets will employ semi-skilled and unskilled workers with a few skilled, such as bookkeepers, managers, and general clerks.

CETA and area trade schools are providing training in various skilled occupations, fulfilling the rural areas need for skilled labor.

The garment industry in St. Martinville has expanded their operations and now has need for additional personnel. The Garan plant relocated in larger quarters and will also require more personnel. The Shell Key Packing Company plans to begin operations in March. They will employ over 300 people, when in full operation. Arrangements have been made for Employment Security to assist them in taking applications and making referrals.

NEW IBERIA AREA OFFICE

Iberia Parish has 189 sugar cane farms employing 480 year round and 700 seasonal farm workers.

This year's sugar cane harvest season, with its compound problems, was one of the worst ever experienced by local producers and processors. Raw sugar prices,

contract conditions, and weather have combined to produce some of the most unstable conditions the industry has known.

Approximately 44,000 acres of cane was supposed to be harvested this year and approximately 41,710 was processed. Over 2,290 acres of sugar cane was left in the field. Muck and mire caused by incessant rains gummed up the works for cane farmers and slowed care grinding. So much mud came into the mills that it caused poor quality of the cane. Freeze for several days killed the cane stalks and normal burning hastened quality deterioration. It is estimated our average yield of 23½ tons per acre was set.

Foliage and live stock also suffered due to rain and cold spell hitting this area.

Timetable of Seasonal Farm Activities:

Sugar Cane Cultivation.....April through June

Sugar Cane Planting.....August 15 through October 15

Sugar Cane Harvest.....October 10 through December

Pepper Planting.....April through May

Pepper Cultivation.....May through August

Pepper Harvest.....September through October

Sweet Potato Planting.....May through July 15

Sweet Potato Cultivation.....June through July

Sweet Potato Harvest.....August through October

Rice Planting.....April through May

Rice Cultivation.....May through July

Rice Harvest.....July through September

EAST SUGAR CANE AREA

The East Sugar Cane Area is located in the southeastern section of the state along both sides of the Mississippi River. It serves the parishes (counties) of Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, St. Charles, West Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, St. James, and St. John the Baptist. This ten parish (county) area is served by two area offices in Houma and Baton Rouge.

BATON ROUGE AREA OFFICE

The Rural Manpower Services continued to be operated as an integral part of the Employer Services Section. One of the three Field Service Representative II's was assigned to rural parishes. Considerable time was devoted to each parish, visiting public officials, civic leaders, non-agricultural and agricultural employers.

The Field Service Representative II met with public officials and interested organizations, such as School Boards and Civic Leaders to coordinate hiring of summer youth and public service employees financed through CETA. All six rural parishes were granted CETA funds and a Field Service Representative II monitored the program. Information sheets were made available at public offices and itinerart points for persons interested in securing employment or desiring training. Throughout the month of March, E. S. Interviewers and Field Service Representatives maintained a rotating schedule at our Claims Itinerant Points to offer services to all applicants and take work applications. In June, we established an Outreach Office to assist in locating jobs for summer youth in our rural parishes. In August, we assigned one Interviewer to service our migrant/seasonal farm workers through personal contact. He explained our services, gave out written information, and effected job development, referral and placement of these rural applicants. In December, we again sent a Field Service Representative II to the itinerart points in an attempt to provide services to our rural applicants.

Industrial construction totaling $252,156,962 was begun in Ascension, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge, Point Coupee and West Feliciana parishes employing rural applicants in various construction trades.

This growth provided 697 permanent jobs and 4,114 construction jobs thus far in the rural parishes. Ground excavation work began for the construction of the atomic generating plant in West Feliciana. Vulcan Materials began construction on expanding facilities; as did BASF Wyandotte during 1976. Dow Chemical in West Baton Rouge, began expansion of their plant, which yielded 70 permanent jobs.

Under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act 129, institutional training slots were assigned to the six rural parishes served by this office. All of these training slots were filled, covering such training as clerical, licensed practical nursing, cosmotology, welding, auto mechanic, instrumentation technology, electronics, machinists, heavy truck driver. Approximately 70 percent of trainees completing respective courses are placed. In addition to classroom training, 123 people were placed in subsidized on-the-job training in rural parishes.

The total population of the parishes does not seem to vary greatly, but there is a definite trend to commute to Baton Rouge to seek employment. More rural applicants seek and are obtaining employment in white collar service and construction occupations.

Employment increased in all assigned rural parishes during 1976 over the previous year. In the parishes of Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Ascension, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana construction growth was responsible for the stable economy. Iberville Parish experienced the largest increase in employment during 1976.

The unemployment rate ranged from 11.0% in West Feliciana to 4.9% in East Feliciana. The high percentage in West Feliciana is attributed to the seasonal

cannery workers. However, the overall unemployment rate has decreased from that of 1975. Although, in 1975, the trend was to large farms with the smaller farms going out of business. That trend has reversed itself this past year.

Crop Activity Timetables:

Sugar Cane Cultivation.....April through June

Sugar Cane Planting.....August 15 through October 15

Sugar Cane Harvest.....October 10 through December

Cotton Planting.....April through May

Cotton Cultivation.....May through June

Cotton Harvest.....September through November 15

Sweet Potato Planting.....May through June

Sweet Potato Cultivation.....May through July

Sweet Potato Harvest.....August 15 through November 15

Vegetable Planting.....September 15 through November 15

Vegetable Harvest.....May through June

Irish Potato Harvest.....June

Hay Harvest.....May through October

PARISHES SERVED

St. Helena

Livingston

Tangipahoa

AREA OFFICE

Hammond

THE STRAWBERRY AREA

HAMMOND AREA OFFICE

The Strawberry Area is located in the Southeastern part of Louisiana. Its primary agricultural activity is centered around the production of strawberries and vegetables. Other crops that contribute to the area's economy are hay, small grain and nursery stocks. In addition to field crops, pulpwood and logging, poultry farming, dairying and livestock raising also contribute to the

overall economy of the Strawberry Area.

The primary labor using crops in the area are hay, strawberries, snap beans, bell pepper and cucumber.

Due to the very favorable weather conditions, there was an increased demand for seasonal workers. Through increased piece rate wages on the farmers' part and intensive recruiting by the local office, agricultural labor problems were resolved.

A close working relationship has been developed with the following agencies: Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Family Services, Hammond State School, Hammond Mental Health, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond Police Department, Tangipahoa Parish School Board, Tangipahoa Parish Police Jury, City of [illegible], Livingston Parish Police Jury, Louisiana Council on Aging, and the [illegible] Airport. The exchange of applicants from these groups has strengthened the existing committments. Counseling services have been discussed, referrals for training programs and opportunities have taken place, and job developments attempts have been interchanged. An information transfer between other employment agencies has given helpful clues for handling similar problems.

The labor market situation has been affected by several major items. Increased highway and building construction have placed a demand on the rural labor market. More federally funded government projects have increased the labor demand out of the labor market in the outlying areas of the tri-parish section.

The inner expansion of rural occupations and industries has placed an equal de-

mand on all levels of their employment. There has been a further increased trend for workers to move from agricultural to nonagricultural industries and services. One reason for the move is the definite decrease in the amount of agricultural activity. Another reason for this movement is the fact that the minimum wage for nonagricultural employment is greater than that for agricultural employment. The younger worker in the labor market is transferring to non-agricultural industries for better opportunities.

The new emphasis on the elderly, especially through "senior citizen" programs, has brought many people back into the labor market. The majority of these are working in volunteer jobs, but they have become a part of the labor market. Many of the new establishments opening in the area are hiring women and youth, thus increasing their percentage of the total employed labor market.

Vocational training in the area has expanded both in the increased enrollment of the vocational schools and in the establishment of new training schools under the CETA program. A variety of skills are offered through this training, e. g., clerical, mechanical, and electrical. This training will better prepare applicants when they enter the labor market. The training programs increase the demand on labor by hiring instructors, assistants, and administrative and clerical personnel.

There has been a further decrease in migrating seasonal workers during the last several years; however, there still is some migration principally to Michigan and Florida.

Timetable of Seasonal Farm Activities:

Strawberry Planting	November through December
Strawberry Cultivation	January through February
Strawberry Harvest	March 15 through May
Vegetable Planting	Throughout the year
Vegetable Cultivation	Throughout the year
Vegetable Harvest	Throughout the year
Hay Harvest	May through October
Cotton Harvest	September through October
Tung Nut Harvest	October through February

PARISHES SERVED

Washington St. Tammany

AREA OFFICE

Bogalusa

THE TUNG NUT AREA

The Tung Nut Area is located in the Southeastern Corner of the state which is composed of the parishes of Washington and St. Tammany and served by the Bogalusa area office.

Outreach stations are Franklinton, La. in Washington parish, Covington, in St. Tammany. These two points are served 1 day a week. Each point has a

receptionist that mans the station on a daily basis. These workers are funded under CETA. In addition, we serve Slidell five days a week from an outreach station. Both agricultural and non-agricultural employers are served.

In St. Tammany parish, especially the Slidell area, there has been a slight increase in employment. Twelve new retail outlets have started. These new businesses employ approximately 175 workers. Construction in he Slidell area has remained fairly steady during the year. The workers were involved in construction of shopping centers to house the new retail outlets as well as the construction of housing.

In Washington parish, there were no new economic developments with the exception of the completion of a building to house the Chrysler Electronic assembly facility that is scheduled to start in late January of 1977. No major construction projects were started. Crown Zellerbach Mill division shut down one of their paper machines which caused a bump back of employees causing the younger men to be laid off. However, this machine is scheduled to resume production in January of 1977.

Agriculture wise, there has been little change in the area during the year. In Washington parish, there are 262 active dairies compared to 258 of last year. There are 15 active dairies compared to 16 of last year in St. Tammany parish. An estimated total of 140 year-round workers are employed on dairies.

There are approximate 30 nurseries in the area employing approximately 130 workers.

The only seasonal activity in the area hiring seasonal workers was in the hay harvest. An estimated approximately 150 workers were employed at the peak.

During the past year, rural applicants were placed in various CETA training projects in the two parishes. In St. Tammany parish, we had a welding class, small gasoline engine, diesel and stenographer class that was staffed with rural residents. In Washington parish, a farm equipment class and auto body repair class was located in Franklinton, La. and a welding and secretarial class in Bogalusa were staffed by rural residents. Rural residents were also selected, referred and placed on various OJT projects.

At the present time unemployment rate for the area is 8.2%. This is a little lower than the comparable figure for last year. As last year, all segments of the economy are affected. Construction continued to be hard hit by unemployment. Crown Zellerbach Corporation our largest employer continues to have periods of slow work. One machine has been down for some time causing the lay off of men with low seniority.

Timetable of Seasonal Farm Activities:

Tung Nut Cultivation.....April through September

Tung Nut Harvest.....October 15 through March

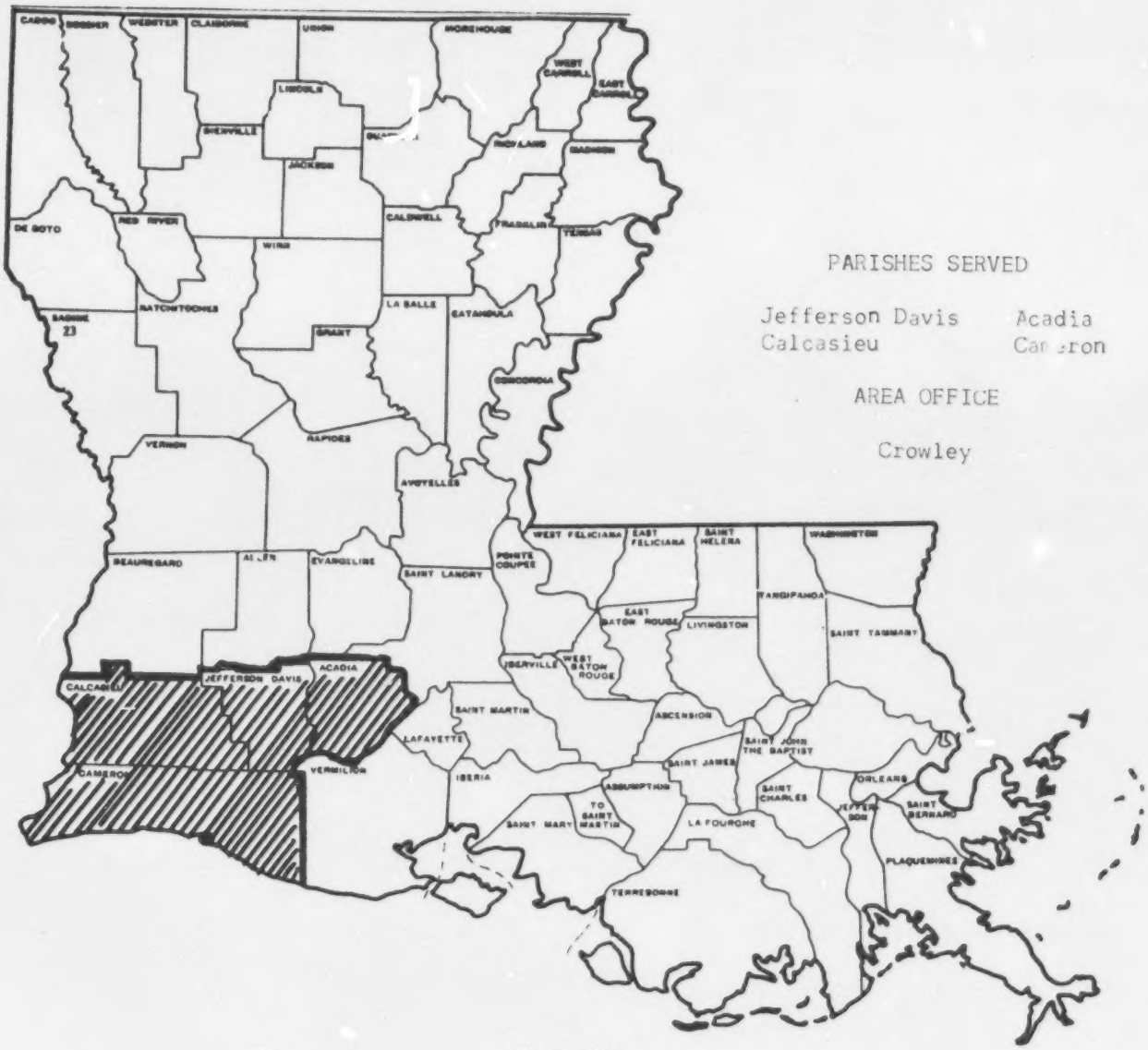
Cotton Cultivation.....May through June

Cotton Harvest.....August through October

Hay Harvest.....July 15 through October

Corn Harvest.....October through November

Cucumber Harvest.....May through July



PARISHES SERVED

Jefferson Davis
Calcasieu
Acadia
Cameron

AREA OFFICE

Crowley

RICE AREA

The Rice Area is located in the southwestern corner of the state and serves the parishes (counties) of Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu, Acadia, and Cammeron. This four parish (county) area is served by one area office located in Crowley.

CROWLEY AREA OFFICE

There were no new industrial developments in the Crowley office area during 1976. However, a number of existing industries expanded their operations

resulting in a higher employment base.

During 1976, it was estimated that an average of 10,850 individuals were employed in non-agricultural wage and salary jobs. This represents an increase of some 13.3% in employment over the 9575 reported for 1975.

Gains were made in manufacturing, contract construction, trades, services and government. Light to moderate losses were experienced in mining and transportation employment.

Agricultural employment in the area is centered around hay, livestock and rice. Employment of seasonal labor is limited to hay and rice production while the livestock industry is more or less confined to the regular hired workers.

Because of high mechanization, employment of seasonal agricultural workers is held to an absolute minimum.

LAKE CHARLES AREA OFFICE

In the year 1976 two new industries moved into the DeRidder area. The largest industry is Thermo-Con, who constructed a new factory of 55,000 square feet of space. Thermo-Con opened on a partial basis April 12, 1976. Their anticipated employee compliment at the end of calendar year 1977 is 200 with an annual payroll of 2.5 million.

Ampacet, another company locating in the DeRidder area, is still under construction and the anticipated opening date is sometimes in late spring 1977. Total number of employees when in full swing is around 100 people.

Jarrell of Dallas, a garment industry that opened in August of 1975, has absorbed most of the employees thrown out of work in the DeRidder-DeQuincy area when two previous garment industries closed. Proposed expansion and construc-

tion of new factories in both locations is sometimes around mid-year 77 with an eventual employee compliment of around 250 to 300 in both locations.

Boise Southern has proposed expansion projects in both the DeRidder and the DeQuincy area to start in 1977. The construction time is expected to last from 15 to 18 months.

In Allen Parish, one industry, Vancouver HPD, closed in October 1976, displacing 234 people. However many of these people were permitted recall rights to Van Ply and most have been absorbed.

Van Ply has an expansion program planned for 1976, however construction time is anticipated to take from 18 to 24 months. No new jobs are anticipated due to this but turnover should average around 10 to 15 placements per week. Some 60 jobs in the construction field will be created by the expansion.

Timetable of Seasonal Crop Activities:

Rice Planting.....April through May

Rice Cultivation.....May 15 through July

Rice Harvest.....July through October

Cotton Cultivation.....May through July

Cotton Harvest.....August through September

Sweet Potato Cultivation.....May 15 through July 15

Sweet Potato Harvest.....August through October

Corn Harvest.....October

Hay Harvest.....August through October

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OF LOUISIANA, 1975 1/

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, commercial landings of fish and shellfish in Louisiana coastal and inland districts were 1.1 billion pounds, valued at $89.0 million-a decrease of 105 million pounds (9 percent) and an increase in value of $875,000 (1 percent) compared with 1974. Lower menhaden landings were responsible for the decline in volume, while sharp increases in shrimp prices caused a significant gain in value. In the commericial fisheries of Louisiana, menhaden was the leading species in volume (984 million pounds), followed by shrimp (53.1 million pounds). Shrimp was the leader in value ($41 million), followed by menhaden ($29 million). Oysters ranked third in value (7 million), and freshwater crawfish was in fourth place (3 million). Louisiana led all States in volume of catch and ranked fourth in value in 1975.

The central district (St. Mary, Assumption, Terrebonne, and Lafourche Parishes) accounted for 49 percent of the value of Louisiana landings in 1975; the western district (Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermilion Parishes), 30 percent; the eastern district (St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany), 18 percent; and the inland district (all other Parishes in Red River and Mississippi River Drainage systems), 3 percent.

SHRIMP. Shrimp landings of 53.1 million pounds (heads-on) with a dockside value of $41 million declined 6.4 million pounds (11 percent); the value increased $8.8 million (27 percent) above last year. White shrimp comprised 46 percent of the landings, brown shrimp 42 percent, and seabobs 12 percent. White shrimp brought an average of $1.65 per pound (heads-off) brown shrimp averaged 95 cents, and sea bobs 40 cents.

1/ Information for 1976 will not be available until after October, 1977.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission implemented a new management technique by dividing the coastal area into three zones. Regulating the spring season by zones is intended to provide shrimp fishermen with the greatest yield ratio of available shrimp known to inhabit certain waters, based on the latest biological data. The zones were established as follows: Zone 1, inside waters east of the Mississippi River (except part of Lake Ponchartrain) Zone 2, inside waters between the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya Rivers; and Zone 3, inside waters between the Atchafalaya River and the Texas State line.

On May 19, Zone 2 was opened to trawling while zones 1 and 3 remained closed during the month. Because fishing was confined to a smaller area this May, fishing pressure was considerably greater in the opened zone. Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays were the most productive waters; the catch rate was 3 to 5 barrels per day. In the Barataria Bay system, catches were steady, but slightly lower. The catch rate was steady in most areas until May 30, when sharp declines followed torrential rains along the coastal areas. Heavy rains continued through mid June, and daily catches dropped to 40 to 50 pounds of heads-on shrimp per day. Fishermen attributed low landings to heavy runnoff of freshwater that killed juveniles in the upper estuaries. The spring shrimp season for all zones closed on July 31, and landings were the lowest since 1964.

Inside waters were reopened on August 18, for the fall shrimp season. White shrimp were extremely scarce, and very few juvenile shrimp were seen in shallow waters.

Many processors of raw peeled shrimp and operators of drying platforms have increased their processing capability; as a result, the market for small shrimp has become more competitive. In the past, canning plants were the primary volume

buyers of small shrimp. The canned shrimp pack of 1.0 million standard cases (24 - 4½ ounce cans) was 47 percent below the pack of 1974, and the lowest canned shrimp pack since 1944.

MENHADEN. Menhaden landings of 984.1 million pounds valued at nearly $29.4 million were down 95.2 million pounds (9 percent) and $10.2 mjllion (26 percent) compared to last year. The heaviest concentration of fishing effort was ir the central and western coastal waters. Sixty-eight purse seiners operated out of Louisiana ports during the year. The average season catch was over 14.5 million pounds of menhaden per vessel.

OYSTERS. Oyster landings of 13.7 million pounds of meats valued at $7.2 million were up 3.7 million pounds (37 percent) and $826,000 (13 percent) above 1974. This record year surpassed the 1939 record by better than 100,000 pounds. Most of the catch was taken from private bottoms and used by the fresh oyster trade. The canned oyster pack was 27 percent above last year, but was well below the record pack of 1961. Because of high inventories, canning plants did not operate at capacity. Oysters were abundant, and catch quotas were imposed on fishermen. Dockside prices generally were $4 to $6 per sack.

CRABS. Crab landings of 17.1 million pounds valued at $2.5 million were down 17 percent in volume and 7 percent in value below 1974. Market demand was good; fishermen received an average of 15 cents per pound, up 2 cents over last year.

EDIBLE FINFISH. Landings of finfish used for human consumption were 19.2 million pounds valued at 4.6 million. When compared with 1974, finfish increased 1.3 million pounds (7 percent) in volume and $603,000 (13 percent) in value. Landings of freshwater catfish were up 15 percent in volume; redfish (red drum)

declined 5 percent and spotted sea trout, 11 percent. The average price per pound paid to the fishermen for all species of finfish used for human comsumption was .25 cents--up 2 cents from last year.

The above data was compiled under the direction of Mr. Orville M. Allen, Supervisory Fishery Reporting Specialist in New Orleans, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY DISTRICTS, 1975

SPECIES	DISTRICT					
	EASTERN		CENTRAL		WESTERN	
FISH	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
BLUEFISH	11,787	1,410	100	8	-	-
BOWFIN	-	-	8,300	264	144	26
BUFFALOFISH	16,999	2,548	611,480	90,292	41,462	6,023
CABIO	175	15	557	37	-	-
CARP	3,200	292	31,572	1,615	886	65
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	1,631,558	551,393	4,134,803	1,401,651	274,727	93,879
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	278,559	39,742	205,284	20,474	-	-
DRUM, BLACK	140,801	17,099	131,877	11,532	2,427	417
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	765,348	206,592	568,044	115,254	28,686	7,778
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED	97,285	28,162	115,880	26,519	29,073	7,664
GARFISH	118,303	17,683	120,144	14,928	39,7[illegible]	6,138
GROUPERS	200	27	5,064	721	-	-
KING WHITING OR "KINGFISH"	65,058	8,521	72,330	5,375	6,942	507
MENHADEN	(1)	-	468,505,540	13,956,402	515,599,840	15,422,917
MULLET	183,961	27,016	29,239	1,896	-	-
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL	-	-	-	-	359	42
POMPANO	5,593	6,342	11,704	12,203	-	-
SAWFISH	100	10	-	-	-	-
SEA CATFISH	29,215	3,528	5,341	407	-	-
SEA TROUT, GREY, SMALL	350	70	564	85	-	-
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED	822,278	306,754	819,328	291,285	255,080	97,939
SEA TROUT, WHITE	127,390	21,479	38,004	4,061	-	-
SHAD	25,000	750	-	-	-	-
SHARKS	14,163	1,261	3,395	220	-	-
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER	6,626	1,041	143,878	14,695	9,054	1,220
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	58,447	5,639	41,853	3,092	656	66
SNAPPER, RED	7,585	4,696	132,750	64,431	10,421	5,159
SPANISH MACKEREL	103,343	13,820	96,738	15,263	-	-
SPOT	3,624	307	14,623	1,121	-	-
TRIPLETAIL	997	98	123	10	-	-
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL	1,213,550	33,730	27,862,009	655,509	438,180	13,531
TOTAL FISH	5,731,495	1,300,025	503,710,529	16,709,350	516,737,291	15,663,371
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	7,013,711	1,019,047	7,638,131	1,111,643	2,491,667	379,343
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER	108,365	154,318	2,175	783	-	-
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER	-	-	4,636,697	1,545,327	-	-
SHRIMP, FRESHWATER	-	-	900	420	-	-
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON)	13,480,485	8,691,901	28,925,173	21,804,541	10,728,530	10,471,313
OYSTERS (MEATS)	9,649,703	4,982,396	4,037,279	2,191,913	-	-
TURTLES, SEA	88	27	-	-	-	-
TURTLES, SNAPPER	158	70	1,205	675	28	11
FROGS	-	-	3,075	2,315	140	84
TOTAL SHELLFISH	30,252,510	14,847,759	45,244,635	26,657,617	13,220,365	10,850,751
GRAND TOTAL	35,984,005	16,147,784	548,955,159	43,366,967	529,957,656	26,514,122

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY DISTRICTS, 1975 (CONTINUED)

SPECIES	DISTRICT		TOTAL			
	INLAND		1974		1975	
FISH	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
BLUEFISH	-	-	10,600	959	11,887	1,418
BOWFIN	30,905	2,535	50,578	3,484	39,349	2,825
BUFFALOFISH	1,986,200	297,005	2,291,996	337,281	2,656,141	395,868
CABIO	-	-	9,787	761	732	52
CARP	180,062	7,787	181,160	8,813	215,720	9,759
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	1,685,530	568,627	6,698,546	2,121,170	7,726,618	2,615,550
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	-	-	420,777	45,210	483,843	60,216
DRUM, BLACK	-	-	439,844	41,630	275,105	29,033
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	-	-	1,436,090	296,470	1,362,078	329,624
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED	-	-	315,344	64,591	242,238	62,345
GARFISH	252,300	31,212	527,549	65,675	530,101	69,961
GROUPERS	-	-	2,402	191	5,264	748
JEWFISH	-	-	309	21	-	-
KING WHITING OR "KINGFISH"	-	-	215,129	18,984	144,330	14,403
MENHADEN	-	-	1,079,303,670	39,539,154	984,105,380	29,379,319
MULLET	-	-	50,053	2,892	213,200	28,912
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL	6,552	597	9,088	806	6,911	639
POMPANO	-	-	15,160	15,368	17,297	18,545
SAWFISH	-	-	1,274	64	100	10
SEA CATFISH	-	-	55,213	5,098	34,556	3,935
SEA TROUT, GREY, SMALL	-	-	-	-	914	155
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED	-	-	2,124,476	635,364	1,896,686	695,978
SEA TROUT, WHITE	-	-	146,763	17,028	165,394	25,540
SHAD	1,507,000	72,241	1,125,200	46,361	1,532,000	72,991
SHARKS	-	-	209	10	17,558	1,481
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER	974,720	136,610	1,112,451	137,380	1,134,278	153,566
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	-	-	136,148	9,424	100,956	8,797
SNAPPER, RED	-	-	286,224	139,001	150,756	74,286
SPANISH MACKEREL	-	-	192,007	24,316	200,081	29,083
SPOT	-	-	20,814	1,689	18,247	1,428
TRIPLETAIL	-	-	3,040	284	1,120	108
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	-	-	250	13	-	-
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL	-	-	38,639,661	766,213	29,513,739	702,770
TOTAL FISH	6,623,269	1,116,614	1,135,821,812	44,345,705	1,032,802,579	34,789,360
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	-	-	20,639,438	2,701,460	17,143,509	2,510,033
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER	-	-	95,559	126,986	110,540	155,101
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER	6,648,635	1,785,615	7,166,537	2,327,695	11,285,332	3,330,942
SHRIMP, FRESHWATER	9,300	6,510	10,000	4,150	10,200	6,930
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON)	-	-	59,581,009	32,201,695	53,134,188	40,967,755
OYSTERS (MEATS)	-	-	9,971,242	6,347,912	13,686,982	7,174,309
TURTLES, SEA	1,500	525	-	-	1,588	552
TURTLES, SNAPPER	57,217	20,074	94,236	29,585	58,608	20,830
FROGS	38,238	27,492	36,076	25,492	41,453	29,891
TOTAL SHELLFISH	6,754,890	1,840,216	97,594,097	43,764,975	95,472,900	54,196,343
GRAND TOTAL	13,378,159	2,956,830	1,233,415,909	88,110,684	1,128,274,979	88,985,703

(1) INCLUDES LANDINGS OF ANOTHER DISTRICT.

NOTE:--OYSTERS ARE REPORTED IN PINTS OF MEATS (8.7 POUNDS PER GALLON). ALL OTHER SPECIES ARE SHOWN IN ROUND WEIGHT. THE WEIGHT OF OYSTER MEATS FOR 1975 IS BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF 10.43 POUNDS PER LOUISIANA BARREL. DATA INCLUDE REVISIONS SINCE PUBLICATION OF MONTHLY BULLETINS.

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY MONTHS, 1975

SPECIES	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
FISH						
BLUEFISH.	10	1	-	-	1,948	225
BOWFIN.	6,433	513	6,298	431	9,324	629
BUFFALOFISH	135,022	20,259	175,682	25,998	288,863	42,979
CARP.	9,406	462	9,817	414	38,569	1,538
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	330,117	112,406	321,654	110,383	445,988	154,866
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	59,515	8,112	68,028	9,160	68,058	7,379
DRUM, BLACK	35,005	3,073	30,228	2,702	22,686	2,216
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	177,512	27,943	148,909	25,854	83,267	20,337
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED . . .	15,525	3,263	9,476	1,878	11,416	2,507
GARFISH	50,492	6,422	44,699	5,881	72,631	9,438
GROUPERS.	-	-	-	-	2,063	309
KING WHITING OR MKINGFISH*. .	15,411	1,508	12,066	1,013	9,450	707
MULLET.	2,550	204	3,654	264	10,694	761
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL . . .	303	29	669	54	900	82
POMPANO	3,996	4,819	3,074	2,866	4,689	4,707
SEA CATFISH	400	56	625	73	85	13
SEA TROUT, GREY, SMALL. . . .	-	-	350	70	-	-
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED.	214,570	65,220	135,917	46,231	75,076	27,710
SEA TROUT, WHITE.	17,924	2,493	46,909	8,970	22,552	3,430
SHAD.	165,000	7,900	941,400	45,427	425,600	19,664
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER. . . .	47,805	6,551	60,088	8,150	87,072	12,040
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	5,513	349	6,498	438	7,493	625
SNAPPER, RED.	18,963	9,470	26,423	9,444	7,285	3,577
SPANISH MACKEREL.	7,954	955	5,077	478	31,091	4,632
SPOT.	-	-	480	37	2,244	157
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL .	1,778,300	32,802	1,155,700	21,794	1,406,602	28,174
TOTAL FISH	3,097,766	314,810	3,213,721	328,010	3,135,690	348,302
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	1,069,237	154,228	944,943	141,446	983,687	156,282
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER.	-	-	-	-	9,155	13,047
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER.	115,986	59,708	930,890	436,926	3,375,082	1,113,967
SHRIMP, FRESHWATER.	-	-	-	-	1,674	1,172
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON).	1,774,671	972,176	868,718	704,776	902,249	926,637
OYSTERS (MEATS)	1,237,374	588,725	1,626,014	724,564	2,396,705	959,731
TURTLES, SEA.	-	-	32	10	1,500	525
TURTLES, SNAPPER.	-	-	475	183	7,219	2,528
FROGS	2,848	1,994	3,833	2,683	6,311	4,541
TOTAL SHELLFISH	4,200,116	1,776,831	4,374,905	2,010,588	7,683,582	3,178,430
GRAND TOTAL	7,298,582	2,091,641	7,588,626	2,338,598	10,819,228	3,526,732

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY MONTHS, 1975 (CONTINUED)

SPECIES	APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
FISH						
BLUEFISH.	423	51	-	-	100	12
BOWFIN.	7,161	481	3,221	177	771	49
BUFFALOFISH	310,908	46,339	209,148	30,971	161,637	23,602
CABIO	73		-	-	[illegible]	6
CARP.	37,925	1,901	34,671	1,425	18,157	863
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	851,905	293,054	876,166	298,252	656,101	214,372
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	58,654	7,553	20,281	2,383	21,654	2,407
DRUM, BLACK	17,502	1,795	8,798	946	8,109	1,011
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	89,591	22,682	73,494	17,949	54,390	14,462
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED . . .	12,846	2,481	16,223	3,941	13,104	2,979
GARFISH	105,740	14,310	31,454	4,018	20,629	2,659
GROUPERS.	1,184	83	300	40	160	24
KING WHITING OR MKINGFISH*. .	17,490	1,622	20,960	1,773	9,052	873
MENHADEN.	18,618,630	446,848	154,605,180	4,636,155	162,877,000	4,397,681
MULLET.	6,364	334	910	65	363	28
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL . . .	1,056	93	657	68	749	71
POMPANO	356	356	366	421	407	516
SEA CATFISH	5,895	589	2,330	263	2,197	264
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED.	164,891	60,219	216,538	80,414	186,014	72,160
SEA TROUT, WHITE.	7,768	1,137	11,361	1,218	3,123	374
SHARKS.	100	10	600	60	1,500	130
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER. . . .	160,046	21,733	94,084	12,625	122,855	16,235
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	5,300	478	4,784	341	7,364	661
SNAPPER, RED.	6,001	2,855	7,915	4,237	7,011	3,489
SPANISH MACKEREL.	25,951	3,845	1,430	212	12,815	2,969
SPOT.	3,074	216	325	26	1,201	96
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL .	763,130	15,426	2,529,197	53,918	1,752,700	35,574
TOTAL FISH	21,279,969	946,503	158,770,393	5,153,898	165,939,263	4,793,567
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	1,415,933	227,221	1,857,693	296,023	1,934,444	278,766
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER.	14,470	20,090	19,355	2[illegible],671	15,470	21,327
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER.	2,538,812	748,615	2,937,387	615,321	1,379,000	352,475
SHRIMP, FRESHWATER.	2,232	1,562	2,439	1,617	3,855	2,579
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON).	702,628	882,175	8,738,517	4,298,317	7,976,396	4,231,283
OYSTERS (MEATS)	1,599,738	685,962	943,084	502,157	1,115,204	655,916
TURTLES, SEA.	56	17	-	-	-	-
TURTLES, SNAPPER.	10,496	3,744	9,214	3,417	9,448	3,319
FROGS	294	215	-	-	4,404	3,374
TOTAL SHELLFISH	6,284,859	2,569,601	14,507,[illegible]9	5,744,523	12,438,221	5,549,039
GRAND TOTAL	27,564,82[illegible]	3,516,104	173,278,[illegible]2	10,898,421	178,377,484	10,342,606

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY MONTHS, 1975 (CONTINUED)

SPECIES	JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
FISH	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
BOWFIN	427	33	205	17	841	79
BUFFALOFISH	179,108	26,836	197,687	29,563	205,452	30,573
CABIO	334	20	25	2	200	17
CARP	14,077	626	8,888	427	9,119	393
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	907,517	292,629	826,000	268,566	616,324	202,516
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	27,194	2,699	33,681	4,299	40,012	5,145
DRUM, BLACK	15,352	1,739	16,572	1,951	28,814	3,135
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	49,268	14,045	77,838	23,753	95,126	28,483
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED	8,557	2,381	8,637	2,319	13,797	4,018
GARFISH	22,692	2,849	22,768	3,166	14,464	1,987
GROUPERS	469	70	191	29	251	38
KING WHITING OR "KINGFISH"	15,216	1,578	7,943	965	4,907	493
MENHADEN	265,105,600	7,422,954	152,361,350	4,723,200	159,169,220	5,252,584
MULLET	3,182	269	291	23	356	28
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL	237	20	115	12	557	54
POMPANO	-	-	1,317	1,646	554	656
SEA CATFISH	1,983	217	3,521	415	1,145	136
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED	274,004	103,702	144,454	53,111	87,457	34,196
SEA TROUT, WHITE	4,955	747	2,099	362	5,488	755
SHARKS	3,710	287	4,448	356	4,100	354
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER	132,720	17,633	124,738	16,951	62,377	8,491
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	9,245	848	5,105	469	8,153	720
SNAPPER, RED	21,183	10,728	17,083	8,437	12,767	6,439
SPANISH MACKEREL	34,953	5,219	20,369	3,052	14,081	1,972
SPOT	2,524	202	376	28	2,207	177
TRIPLETAIL	156	16	100	10	-	-
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL	2,766,450	58,217	10,655,730	290,807	1,644,960	36,514
TOTAL FISH	269,601,113	7,966,644	169,541,531	5,433,936	162,042,729	5,619,953
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	2,080,404	274,767	1,680,250	226,774	1,400,295	192,337
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER	25,310	36,060	14,520	20,801	6,580	9,335
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER	931	233	-	-	-	-
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON)	5,134,314	4,026,165	2,813,769	3,360,253	3,001,242	3,546,270
OYSTERS (MEATS)	517,359	370,093	415,670	311,280	644,001	413,313
TURTLES, SNAPPER	9,181	3,230	6,286	2,268	4,148	1,461
FROGS	5,484	3,985	9,641	6,878	4,858	3,511
TOTAL SHELLFISH	7,772,983	4,714,533	4,940,136	3,928,254	5,061,124	4,166,227
GRAND TOTAL	277,374,096	12,681,177	169,581,667	9,362,190	167,103,853	9,786,180

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

LOUISIANA LANDINGS BY MONTHS, 1975 (CONTINUED)

SPECIES	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
FISH	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS	POUNDS	DOLLARS
BLUEFISH	200	24	-	-	9,206	1,105
BOWFIN	790	72	1,578	132	2,300	212
BUFFALOFISH	285,668	42,119	237,012	35,896	269,954	40,733
CARP	10,228	489	8,188	375	16,675	841
CATFISH AND BULLHEADS	661,154	229,444	593,280	209,814	640,412	229,248
CROAKER, UNCLASSIFIED	37,854	5,406	19,860	2,184	29,052	3,489
DRUM, BLACK	32,112	3,684	21,673	2,286	38,254	4,510
DRUM, RED (REDFISH)	121,538	33,322	150,762	37,533	240,343	63,261
FLOUNDERS, UNCLASSIFIED	33,175	9,133	50,066	15,063	49,416	12,382
GARFISH	28,035	3,656	47,758	6,247	68,739	9,328
GROUPERS	86	13	394	106	166	36
KING WHITING OR "KINGFISH"	13,376	1,787	10,015	1,109	8,444	975
MENHADEN	71,368,400	2,497,897	-	-	-	-
MULLET	1,600	132	181,331	26,683	1,905	121
PADDLEFISH OR SPOONBILL	445	40	508	50	715	66
POMPANO	906	889	282	269	1,350	1,400
SAWFISH	100	10	-	-	-	-
SEA CATFISH	5,800	689	5,675	698	4,900	522
SEA TROUT, GREY, SMALL	-	-	564	85	-	-
SEA TROUT, SPOTTED	127,968	47,127	137,685	55,022	132,112	51,086
SEA TROUT, WHITE	16,898	3,193	10,163	930	16,154	2,031
SHARKS	800	69	2,300	215	-	-
SHEEPSHEAD, FRESHWATER	92,922	12,735	83,220	11,547	66,351	8,875
SHEEPSHEAD, SALTWATER	10,372	955	16,234	1,256	14,895	1,657
SNAPPER, RED	7,023	3,971	10,769	6,652	8,333	4,987
SPANISH MACKEREL	5,291	773	1,143	154	39,926	4,822
SPOT	1,749	136	1,861	149	2,206	204
TRIPLETAIL	464	45	400	37	-	-
UNCLASSIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL	2,421,640	55,803	1,370,190	40,128	1,269,140	33,613
TOTAL FISH	75,286,594	2,953,613	2,962,911	454,620	2,930,958	475,504
SHELLFISH						
CRABS, BLUE, HARD	1,493,912	217,863	1,392,730	213,708	889,981	130,618
CRABS, BLUE, SOFT AND PEELER	4,320	5,696	1,360	1,074	-	-
CRAWFISH, FRESHWATER	-	-	658	304	6,586	3,393
SHRIMP, SALTWATER (HEADS-ON)	6,838,143	6,823,399	9,191,780	7,604,546	5,191,761	3,591,758
OYSTERS (MEATS)	1,021,486	646,495	1,296,092	780,842	873,655	535,231
TURTLES, SNAPPER	1,941	680	-	-	-	-
FROGS	2,007	1,409	1,013	709	760	592
TOTAL SHELLFISH	9,361,809	7,695,542	11,883,633	8,601,183	6,962,743	4,261,592
GRAND TOTAL	84,648,403	10,649,155	14,846,544	9,055,803	9,893,691	4,737,096

Cheneyville To Host Area Corn Clinic

A half-day corn clinic for the Central Louisiana area will be conducted in Cheneyville Jan. 27 at the Catholic Hall.

Weed and insect control as well as a review of culture practice will be presented at the meeting.

The clinic, sponsored by the LSU Cooperative Extension Service, opens at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and registration. The first talk, "Corn Weed Control Program," will be presented at 9:45 a.m. by Dr. L. L. McCormick, agronomy specialist with the LSU Cooperative Extension Service.

An industry products report on weed control in corn will be presented by Richard E. Meyers of CIBA-GEIGY and Steve Zimmerman and K. Frost of Monsanto. These reports are scheduled to begin at 10:15 a.m.

"Spray Equipment for Applying Lay-by and Post-Emergence Chemicals" will be the topic of John M. Benge of Kelsco Manufacturing Co., an agricultural spray equipment firm of Alexandria. His talk is set for 10:30 a.m.

Following a coffee break, a review of culture practice will be presented at 11:15 a.m. by Dr. Olen D. Curtis, agronomy specialist with the Cooperative Extension.

The final talk of the clinic is "Insect Control in Corn" at 11:45 a.m. Presenting the talk will be Dr. James S. Tynes, entomology specialist with the LSU Cooperative Extension.

The clinic will conclude with a barbecue.

Program chairman Ben Simpson, county agent of Rapides Parish, said time will be allowed for a question and answer period following each topic.

According to the USDA Crop Reporting Service, Louisiana farmers planted 85,000 acres of corn in 1976, and produced 5.1 million bushels. This is a 41 per cent increase in the number of acres planted in 1975, and a 63 per cent increase over 1975's production.

The per acre yield average was reported to be 60 bushels per acre, or an increase of eight bushels per acre over 1975 yields.

Irish Potato Planting Time Is Here Now

The Irish potato is a cool season vegetable that requires cool nights for good tuber formation. They return a high yield for the space occupied when grown under favorable conditions.

Louisianians plant Irish potatoes late winter so that the plants will be exposed to these cool nights at the time tubers are forming, notes Dr. Mike Cannon, LSU Cooperative Extension Service horticulturist. The tops of the plants are susceptible to frost damage, but will generally recover from frost and begin growing again when the weather warms.

Varieties recommended for Louisiana are Red LaSoda, LaRouge and LaChipper (a white skin potatoe), Cannon says.

Planting begins in mid-January in the extreme southern part of the state. Plantings begin around the first of February in Central Louisiana and mid-February in North Louisiana. Plantings can be made at later dates throughout the state, but generally the yield is reduced, especially when plantings are made in late March.

Irish potatoes require a fairly large amount of fertilizer on most soils in the state. Generally, about 8 pounds per 100 feet of row of a complete fertilizer prior to planting, on soils of medium to low fertility, plus a one pound side dressing of ammonium nitrate after the plants are about 6 inches tall, is sufficient for good production in the state.

To help obtain a good yield, plant large, blocky seed pieces, Cannon advises. Each seed piece should weigh about 1½ to 2 ounces or should be about the size of an egg. Skimping on seed will result in a skimpy yield. An average size seed potato can be cut in half, then each half cut to give four seed pieces. After the potatoes are cut allow the cut surface to heal over at room temperature for a few days. This will help to prevent seed pieces from rotting after planting. This is especially important if potatoes are planted very early in cold soils. Each seed piece should have at least one eye, because this is where the plant originates.

Two New Cotton Varieties Released By LSU Ag Station to Help Farmers

Two new varieties of cotton that could lower production costs for farmers have been developed by the LSU Agricultural Experiment Station and released for production in 1977.

The new varieties, named Gumbo and Pronto, are characterized by modified leaf shapes that allow more light to penetrate the plant canopy.

Both have higher rate of fruiting and are earlier in maturing than adapted normal-leaf cotton varieties.

Dr. Jack Jones, LSU professor of agronomy and head of the team that developed Gumbo and Pronto, said principal advantages of the new varieties are their earlier maturity and open-type plant canopy, combined with favorable yields and acceptable fiber quality.

The early maturity and open canopy of these varieties have the potenlial of lowering production costs by reducing losses to certain insect and disease pests, Jones said, as well as by reducing costs of controlling these pests and by improving the efficiency of the harvesting and ginning operation.

Modified leaf shapes of the new varieties — Gumbo has the okra-leaf trait, Pronto has the super-okra-leaf trait — allow 70 to 190 percent more sunlight to penetrate the plant canopy than does in normal-leaf cotton.

This results in lower humidity within the canopy and higher temperatures at or near the soil surface, Jones said, which helps reduce insect and disease problems.

Field trials show open-canopy varieties had only about one-third to one-half of the boll rot losses of normal-leaf cotton. The modified-lead traits have also been found to confer a high degree of resistance to the banded-wing whitefly.

One disadvantage of both open-canopy varieties, Jones cautioned, is added problems with weed control. Canopies are not dense enough to shade out weeds and the new varieties probably should not be planted in fields with severe weed problems, he said.

Results of comparative tests with normal leaf varieties indicate Gumbo may be expected to produce yields comparable to Deltapine 16 and Stoneville 213, to mature about a week earlier, and to have fiber quality similar to that of Stoneville 213.

Pronto may be expected to produce yields comparable to or slightly below yields of Deltapine 16 and Stoneville 213, to be ready for harvest about two weeks earlier than these varieties, but to have lint fibers slightly shorter and weaker than fibers of Stoneville 213.

The early maturity of Gumbo and Pronto could offer several advantages to the producer, Jone said.

Growing two or more varieties with different maturity dates would allow staggering the harvest over a wider time span, increasing the capacity of harvesting and ginning equipment.

The early maturity of Gumbo and Pronto also has the potential of saving one to three applications of insecticide at the end of the season, Jones said.

Foundation seed of both varieties, limited to producers who are interested in producing seed, will be available in early February from the Red River Valley Experiment Station, Box 5477, Bossier City, la. 71010, telephone 318/747-0130. Requests should be directed to Dr. K. W. Tipton, superintendent.

1977 Agricultural Outlook for State Promises to Be Good in Most Areas

How does 1977 look for agriculture in Louisiana?

Specialists with the LSU Cooperative Extension Service paint a hopeful outlook for most commodities.

For example, expanded acreages of cotton are likely to be planted in 1977, the specialists agree, mainly because of prices. Farmers are encouraged by the 1976 crop, which sold for an average of 67-cents per pound of lint, and brought in a total of $196,200,000.

Specialists foresee a 10 per cent increase in cotton acreage, or about 55,000 additional acres. At current yields and prices, this projects to an additional $19.8 million to the state's farm economy.

For soybeans, demand should keep prices high enough to induce planting of large acreages, specialists predict. In 1976, gross farm value of the state's soybean harvest soared to $329,550,000.

The value of cotton and soybeans in 1976 was boosted further by figuring the increased value of the crops after processing. With the processed value added, the state's cotton crop in 1976 was worth $215,820,000, and soybeans had a worth of $344,760,000.

Another bright spot in the state's outlook is in the forestry industry. The national economic recession which put a pinch on the wood industry in recent years has reversed. Virtually all segments of the forestry industry have experienced marked increases in production.

The upturn translates into increased income for forest products. In 1976, forest products harvested in the state were valued at $254,900,000.

On the darker side of the picture, specialists report, are rice, sugar cane and beef cattle.

The 1976 rice crop was valued at the second lowest level in the last five years. Including deficiency payments, rice farmers' income totaled $164,911,982.

The depressed rice market is predicted to continue.

Sugar cane farmers find themselves in much the same plight as the rice farmer.

The 1976 crop of sugar cane was valued at only $86,900, 272. However, cautious optimism has crept in because of slightly higher prices and the possibility that the government will place restrictions on the sugar imports.

No drastic improvement is expected for the beef cattle industry this year, although slightly improved prices are predicted. Specialists indicate the pressures which caused many producers to sell herds in 1976 was part of a cycle. They anticipate prices to continue to improve through 1979.

The sale of cattle and calves generated income of $150,776, 241 during 1976.

All in all, however, farm income in Louisiana has risen, John Cox, director of the LSU Cooperative Extension stated. He noted that gross farm income during 1976 attained the second highest level it has reached in five years. Nevertheless, the actual income of the farmer continued to be whittled away by increasing production costs, he added.

Citing figures compiled in Giant Step II, a program including goals to improve state agriculture, Cox said the 1976 farm income total of $1,633,628,819 has been exceeded only once since 1972. This occurred in 1974, when farm income hit $1,847,444,701.

Including value after processing, the worth of agricultural products in the state in 1976 was $4,588,058,714, Cox said. Again, in the last five years, only the 1974 total of $4,779,690,067 tops 1976's total.

The greatest farm income was derived from row crops and related commodities, which totaled $934,508,425 the director reported. This was followed by income from animal production, $444,220,394, and forestry, $254,900,000.

Because of the vast economic impact of wood products, Cox said, forestry spurts ahead when processed value is considered. The total value of the 1976 wood products is $2,724,000,000. This compares to row crops at $1,149,262,912, and animal production valued at $714,795,802.

Cox said the leading agricultural commodities produced in the state in 1976 were soybeans, $329,550,000; forest products, $254,900,000; cotton, $196,200,000; rice, $164,911,982; cattle and calves, $150,776,241; milk, $137,967,170; poultry, $105,443,000; and sugar cane, $86,900,272.

Industrial Construction Level To Remain Very Strong In '77

One of the key elements in the local economy, industrial construction, is expected to remain very strong this year, with about $850 million allocated for new projects. In addition, existing facilities earmarked for expansion are quite numerous.

This healthy state of affairs in industry is expected to maintain our contract construction force at the same level as last year, especially when coupled with residential and commercial construction. Together, they should add more than $100 million to the construction industry in this area.

Some Economic Growth Expected for La. in '77

By BILL McMAHON
Capitol News Bureau

Louisiana is expected to have a moderate growth in its economy next fiscal year, including a 9 per cent growth in personal income, state officials were told Thursday.

A leveling off in the decline of producing oil and gas wells along with a continued rise in the average price of oil is also predicted.

Don Vandal, Legislative Fiscal Office economist, outlined expectations for the Louisiana economy for the Legislature's Revenue Estimating Advisory Committee.

A bright result, based on the Wharton Econometric forecast, was revenues from severance taxes higher than expected.

Where expected collections from severance taxes for the first half of fiscal 1976-77 were $241.8 million, actual collectins were $249.8 million.

E. J. Maciasz, assistant state treasurer, said it appeared that severance taxes may produce $489 million for the year, rather than $480 million million predicted in revised forecasts last year.

The report to the committee cited estimates of an 8.4 per cent decline in oil and 8.1 per cent decline in natural gas production, "based, at this point, upon both the (econometric) model output and some additional judgmental determination.

"The pure estimates of the model provide for essentially no change in the level of gas production and a small decline of about three per cent in oil production for 1977-78."

The report showed the number of producing gas wells was 9,375 in 1968-70, dropping to a low of 8,730 in 1971-72 and growing to 9,286 in 1975-76.

The number of producing oil wells totaled 28,919 in 1969-70, but dropped to 21,622 in 1973-74, and leveled off at 21,690 in 1974-75 and 21,525 in 1975-76.

The average tax on oil is 87.6 cents per barrel for the first quarter of 1977, and is expected to average at 92 cents by the second quarter of 1978.

The forecast "suggests a growth in employment of about 35,000 new jobs in fiscal 1977-78," a 2.4 per cent growth in employment, compared to 2.7 per cent in 1976-77 and .6 per cent in 1975-76.

"Combining the real growth in our economy d e to employment gains with the rise in the price level provides for an estimate of over growth in Louisiana personal income of about 9 per cent," compared to a predicted 7 per cent in 1976-77, 6.5 per cent in 1975-76 and 12.5 per cent in 1974-75 (when inflation was at a 11 to 12 per cent rate), the report says.

Taxes related to both real growth in the economy and the price level should show significant gains, the report says. "The personal income tax, corporate income tax and sales tax are estimated to rise in the range of 10 to 12 per cent for 1977-78."

The forecast includes increases in the four to seven per cent range for taxes on beer, tobacco and soft drinks.

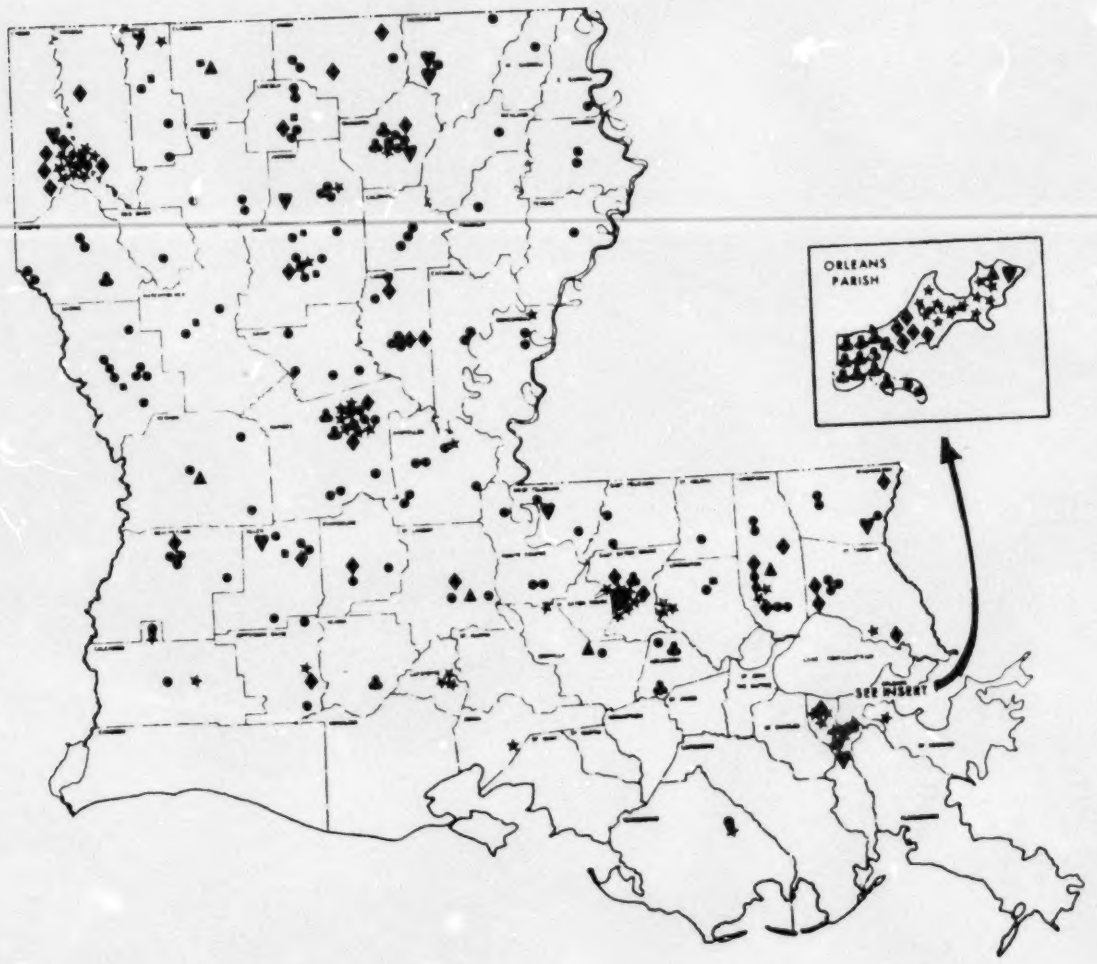
The assumptions in the forecast are based on the Wharton forecast of the national economy, the report says.

Included in those national assumptions are a $10 billion tax rebate for 1977, an alteration; in the standard deduction resulting in a $4 billion permanent tax cut and a tax credit to business based upon the employer's social insurance contributions and amounting to $1 billion in 1977 and $2 billion in 1978.

The state's personal income tax projections are tied to the federal tax, which could result in the state's losing money when the federal tax is cut.

Vandal said he hoped the Louisiana Revenue Department would make changes in its state reporting forms to avoid loss of state income when the federal government cuts taxes.

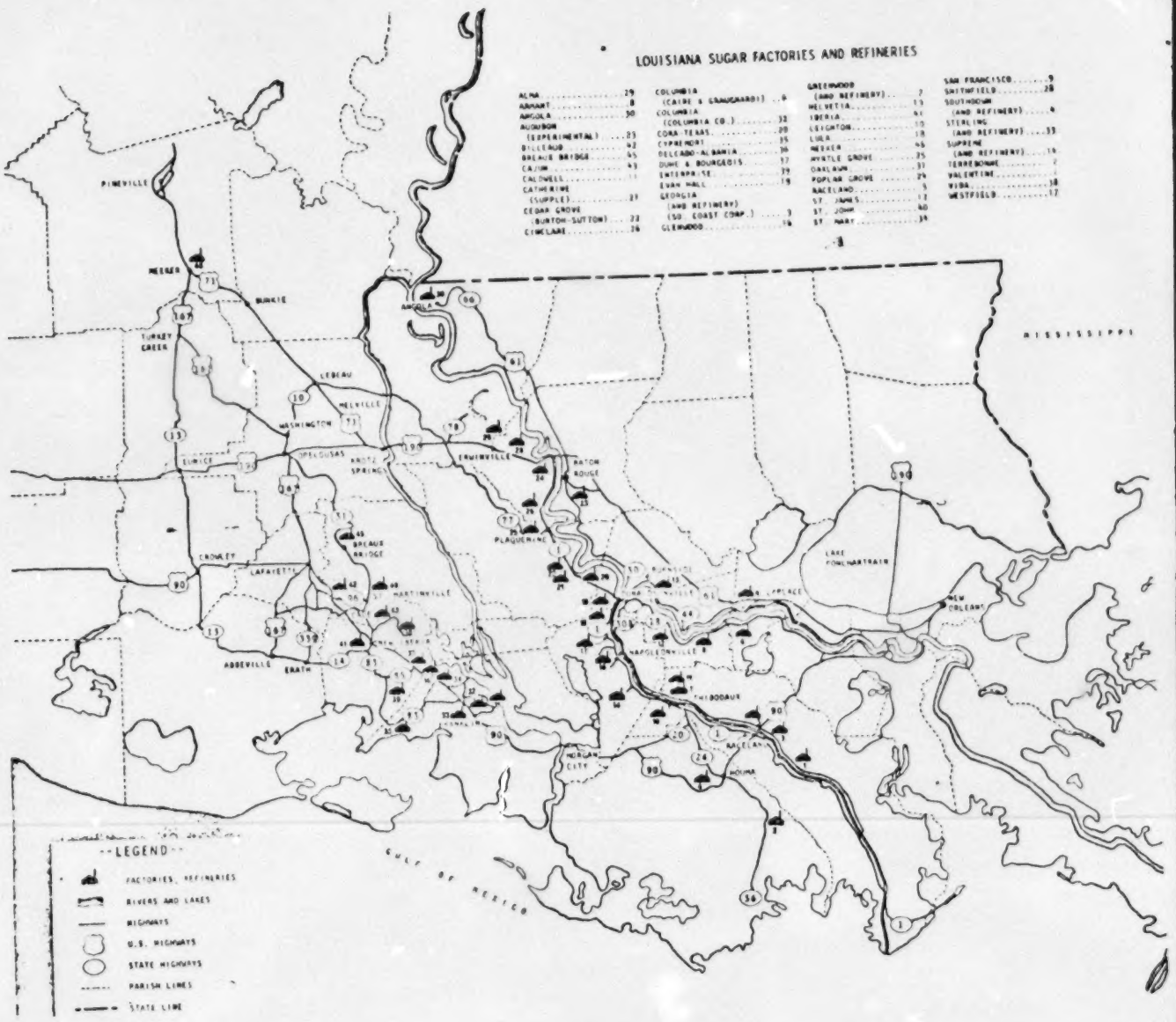
Mrs. Shirley McNamara, collector of revenue, said her department has begun working on a proposal to present to the legislature.



Legend

- Planing & Sawmills
- Millwork, Veneer, Prefab.
- Containers
- Southern Pine Plywood
- Furniture & Fixtures
- Pulp-Paper Products
- Miscl

Wood Using Industries


LOUISIANA SUGAR FACTORIES AND REFINERIES
ALMA 29
ARNAUD 8
ARPOLA 30
AUDUBON (EXPERIMENTAL) 23
BELLEAUD 42
BREAUX BRIDGE 45
CAJUN 43
CALDWELL 1
CATHERINE (SUPPLE) 27
CEDAR GROVE (DUNTON-SUTTON) 22
CLARE 26
COLUMBIA (CAIRE & GRAUGARD) 6
COLUMBIA (COLUMBIA CO.) 32
CORA-TEXAS 20
CYPREMORT 35
DELCAMBRE-ALBANIA 36
DUHE & BOURGEOIS 17
ENTERPRISE 39
EVAN HALL 19
GEORGIA (AND REFINERY) (SO. COAST CORP.) 3
GLENWOOD 16
GREENWOOD (AND REFINERY) 2
HELVETIA 13
IBERIA 41
LEIGHTON 15
LULA 18
MEEKER 46
MYRTLE GROVE 25
OAKLAWN 31
POPLAR GROVE 29
RACELAND 5
ST. JAMES 12
ST. JOHN 40
ST. MARY 34
SAN FRANCISCO 9
SMITHFIELD 28
SOUTHDOWN (AND REFINERY) 4
STERLING (AND REFINERY) 33
SUPREME (AND REFINERY) 14
TERREBONNE 1
VALENTINE 1
WIDA 10
WESTFIELD 17
PINEVILLE
MEEKER
BUNKIE
TURKEY CREEK
LEBEAU
MELVILLE
WASHINGTON
OPELOUSAS
KROTZ SPRINGS
EUNICE
CROWLEY
LAFAYETTE
ABBEVILLE
ERATH
BREAUX BRIDGE
HARTINVILLE
PLAQUEMINE
ERWINVILLE
BATON ROUGE
ANGOLA
MISSISSIPPI
LAKE PONCHARTRAIN
NEW ORLEANS
HOUMA
MORGAN CITY
GULF OF MEXICO
--LEGEND--
FACTORIES, REFINERIES
RIVERS AND LAKES
HIGHWAYS
U.S. HIGHWAYS
STATE HIGHWAYS
PARISH LINES
STATE LINE